

異世界
子育てしながら冒険者します

ゆるり紀行

3



Minazuki Shizuru

水無月静琉



ALPHAPOLIS
アルファポリス

Isekai Yururi Kikou

Raising Children While Being an Adventurer

- Part 4 -

-Author-

Minazuki Shizuru

[Shinsori Translations]

Chapter 91

New Dish

When we returned to the Risner mansion after safely registering at the Merchant's Guild, I went to the kitchen.

Although I provided him with alligator meat as a souvenir... head chef Ryan-san requested to show him the cooking method as well.

Even though the reason was that Ryan-san has never prepared alligator meat before, I have also used it only two times in the dungeon, so there's not much difference.

If I'm pushed to say, then he is much more interested in what dish I'm going to make rather than the alligator meat itself. He's aspiring to become my apprentice after all.

Well, just pushing the ingredients on him "Here, goodbye" would be bad, so I agreed to make shares only for the Risner House's family, Wald-sama and us including Ryan-san.

"Then Takumi-dono, if I may ask you"

"...Yeah"

"..."

I decided to promptly start making the dish in the kitchen I have already used a few times.

"Allen, Elena. Shall we make it then?"

"Make it~"

"What is~?"

"First~?"

Allen and Elena were on my side standing on the stool we got just today, so they were full of enthusiasm to help.

It's just there's Ryan-san and another cook Thor-san peeking from behind them, so I'm a bit worried about that. Well, normal people would be bothered by someone standing behind them, so Allen and Elena who are sensitive to presences will be bothered by it even more.

But, it seems they understand that they mean no harm, so they are concentrating on helping me out.

Now then, what shall we make? N~ how about curry using the alligator meat? Wald-sama and Isaac-san haven't eaten curry yet.

Ah~ but, the feeling of the alligator meat being the main point will disappear...

Let's see~... ah! Let's smear the alligator meat in powder and drizzle it with a sweet vinegar sauce. Next, let's mix mayonnaise with chopped boiled eggs and pickles to make tartar sauce, fried chicken with vinegar and tartar sauce-like style.

"Alright. We should make the tartar sauce first"

"“Tarutaru~?”“

"Ta, Takumi-sama, w, what kind of dish is that!?"

Ryan-san is more restless than the children...

"It's a sauce. Allen, Elena, let's make mayonnaise~"

"Allen will mix~"

"Elena will mix too~"

Recently, I've had the two children who got used to mixing with the whisk help me with making mayonnaise.

"Takumi-sama, is that Mizuuri?"

"Yes, I have pickled the Mizuuri"

“Mizuuri” is a vegetable resembling a cucumber. I have rubbed salt in to take out the liquid and then left it immersed in vinegar and sugar mix.

““Mi~x~, mi~x~”“

I chop the ingredients while pouring oil little by little in the bowl Allen and Elena are mixing in.

Boiled eggs and pickled Mizuuri, next is... green onion and parsley?

“Onii~chan”

“It’s done~”

“Un, good job!”

““Yay~”“

Allen and Elena completed the mayonnaise without a hitch.

Inserting the chopped ingredients in the two’s piece of art mayonnaise, mixing it all together and the tartar sauce is finished!

“Alright, it’s done!”

““Ohh~”“

“I see, adding ingredients to mayonnaise...”

Ryan-san was muttering behind us, but I ignored that and temporarily stored the tartar sauce in the <Infinite Storage>.

Since we have the opportunity, how about making a dessert next?... What to make? I might as well make something I haven’t made before, right~

Ice cream! Ah~ but, it seems it would cause a ruckus if I made an ice cream now... let’s pass.

Ah, I thought of making small pancakes and putting anko between them to make dorayaki before, didn’t I? If it’s coarse anko, then it would be popular among the

people of the Risner mansion.

Ah~ if it's wagashi then youkan would be good too. That would be more dessert-like, right?

But, agar is necessary for youkan... however, how do you make agar from seaweed? That would be impossible as expected. I should make it with slime jelly here. Rather than youkan, would it turn into mizu youkan? No, red bean jelly?

I have plenty time to spare, so let's make dessert-like red bean jelly and dorayaki for snacks.

““Next~?”“

“Let's make snacks next. Allen, Elena, do you remember how to make pancakes?”

““Remember~”“

“Alright! Then, can you do your best at mixing again?”

““Will do~”“

That being the case, we promptly started making pancakes.

Allen and Elena perfectly remembered how pancakes are made, so there were no problems with the dough making. And then—

““Jii~”“

When I heated up the frying pan and started cooking the pancake dough, Allen and Elena were closely gazing at the frying pan.

“It's bubblybubbly~”

“Turn it around~”

“...Kuku”

Allen and Elena properly memorized the timing for turn over.

When I turn it over according to the children, a beautiful, fox color appeared. It's the color of a good cooking.

When I cooked pancakes before, they tried to pop the bubbles that appeared on the dough with their fingers, but they are properly enduring with their hands behind their backs this time.

“Look, it’s cooked~”

““It’s done, it’s done~”“

“Not yet~”

““Not yet~?”“

“That’s right. Next, we will put this bean jam between two pancakes”

By putting pre-made coarse anko between two sheets of pancake, the dorayaki is finished.

“It’s done this time”

““Yay~”“

“Ta, Takumi-sama, this is, this is?”

“It’s called dorayaki”

““Can eat~?”“

“M, may I try it as well?”

“I, I want to eat it too”

Following the children, Ryan-san and Thor-san asked for the snack.

“...Can’t be helped~ It’s before dinner, so Allen and Elena can have only half each, okay?”

““Un!”“

““Thank you very much!”“

I made adzuki jelly while the others eat the snack and finally started cooking the alligator meat.

And, at the dinner—

“This is so tasty. The hell is this!”

“This is wonderful!”

“The meat itself is juicy, but the affinity of the mayonnaise mixed with the faintly sour sauce is... —”

Wald-sama, Isaac-san, and Cedric-san reported their impressions in turns.

It seems they like it. Rather, Cedric-san is commenting as food critic as usual.

““It’s delish~”“

“Anything Takumi-san makes is delicious, isn’t it?”

“Yes, it’s very tasty”

The children seem to like it too. But—

“...Chichiue is different from usual again~”

“Chichiue is recently like this quite a lot, isn’t he~”

Theodore-kun and Latis-kun were wryly smiling at their father’s transformation.

Chapter 92

To the Mermaid Village Once Again

Thinking of visiting the Mermaid Village—the Blue Waters Shrine before departing from Bailey in order to say farewell to Miko Himesama, I brought the kids to the sea. I made a promise to "Come play again" to Miko Himesama and I also thought of asking her to lend me a few more mermaid bracelets.

"Takumi-sama~! You came as promised~"

The fascinating intrusion checking barrier was spreading before us, but because I made sure it didn't react to us, we went directly to the Blue Waters Shrine. Then, Miko Himesama, Mirena-san, and Gard-san immediately welcomed us.

"Hello, it's been a while. Hey, Allen, Elena say hello"

"Hello~"“

"Oh my, oh my, hello. Allen-sama and Elena-sama seem to be doing well"

"Doing well~"“

It was only our second time meeting Miko Himesama and others, but Allen and Elena cheerfully greeted them.

Were they affected a bit by Theodore-kun and Latis-kun and got accustomed to people a bit more?

"Today, rather than coming to play, we came to say goodbye and... to request something"

"Goodbye? A request, is it?"

"Yeah. We will be leaving the nearest town from here soon"

"Ehh!? W, why~!?"

When I reported that we will be leaving Bailey, Miko Himesama lost her composure and raised a surprised voice.

“Miko Himesama, your mask came off. Please, calm down”

“!! Wau~”

When Mirena-san soothed Miko Himesama, she tried to mend her manners in panic.

“I, I’m sorry, Takumi-sama”

“No, no, I’m sorry for surprising you”

“I just lost my composure, so don’t worry about it please. So, where is Takumi-sama heading to?”

“The capital of the country we are currently in”

“Is that so... then, we won’t be able to meet again quite readily...”

Miko Himesama was clearly feeling dejected.

“Miko Himesama, if you get dejected in such easy to understand manner, Takumi-sama will get worried. And so, what is your request, Takumi-sama?”

Gard-san soothed Miko Himesama this time and I stated my other business.

“...Umm, I was wondering if you could lend me some mermaid bracelets... of course, I will pay the price”

“Oh my? Mermaid bracelets, is it? Takumi-sama is using it, right? Eh, was there perhaps a malfunction while using it!?”

“No, everything’s all right”

When I conveyed that I would like more bracelets, Miko Himesama got flustered, thinking that my bracelet broke down, so I immediately denied.

“R, really?”

“Yes. I have several contracted beasts, so those children’s share... I really wanted to come here together with them, but... well, it was impossible”

“So it’s like that. In that case, we will immediately prepare them. How many do you need?”

“Is that okay? If possible, I would like at least three”

“No problem! We will prepare a few including reserves. It’s fine right, Gard?”

“Yes, if it’s mermaid bracelets then they can be immediately prepared”

I’m glad~ It seems they will give them to me.

“Thank you very much”

““Everyone’s share?”“

“That’s right. A share for Joule and everyone. Will Allen and Elena give thanks too?”

““Un, thank you~”“

As they were told, Allen and Elena bobbed their heads and thanked Miko Himesama and others.

“And so for the compensation, money... won’t be necessary, right? If you have something you need, I would like to prepare it, but...”

“To receive compensation from Takumi-sama! Something like that isn’t necessary”

“However... that would leave me unsatisfied. If you have materials you need, if you are troubled about something... is there something?”

As expected, I won’t be able to calm down without paying with something of equal value rather than just receiving it for free. However, it’s not like mermaids living in the sea are using money from the surface.

Mirena-san said that she likes gems, so I was considering whether gems would be all right, but I thought it would be better to confirm what they want, so I asked but... is there not something, I wonder...

“—Ah!”

Oh my? It appears that Miko Himesama has come up with something.

“If there’s something then tell me without hesitating”

“Umm... err, you see... Gard~ What’s going on with that matter~?”

“That matter, you mean the crimson luminous moss, right? Unfortunately, it hasn’t been settled yet”

“Crimson luminous moss, is it?”

“Yes, actually... crimson luminous moss is a faintly shining moss growing in the depths of the sea, but we could hardly harvest it recently”

Miko Himesama apologetically explained the situation.

Crimson luminous moss, huh... erm, a moss growing in the depths of the sea... ahh, materials for medicine?

N~... how unfortunate. I don’t have any.

“I’m sorry, I don’t have any at hand... will I be able to get it in the town? That or I should search the bottom of the sea...”

“No! Umm! We, we know the place where it grows! That place has a considerable amount of growing moss, but a strong monster lives at that place, so...”

I see, it’s a place where moss grows en masse and a monster that the mermaids can’t deal with lives there, huh. If that’s the case, it would be faster than looking for it around the sea or in the town.

“You know something about that monster, right?”

“Yes. It’s Bone Shark”

Bone Shark—a shark of bones, huh... it’s a B-rank monster.

It’s a sea monster, but it’s also an undead.

“Your troubles will go away if that Bone Shark is defeated, right? In that case, I will deal with it for you”

“...Uu~ Even though we said that there's no need for compensation, to request you with such thing...”

“That way is better for me. So, may I ask you to guide me to the Bone Shark's place?”

“Is that really fine with you? It's a considerably strong monster, you know?”

“Well, I will somehow manage”

I'm concerned about the underwater battle, but light magic will be effective and if something unexpected happens, it's an opponent I will manage to deal with my own strength.

““Will do my best~!”“

“Eh? Allen-sama and Elena-sama are going as well!?”

They must have understood monster subjugation from the flow of conversation. Allen and Elena raised their voices in high spirits and Miko Himesama got startled by that.

Well, I was certain the children would want to go with me though...

“Ah~... Allen, Elena. Leave it to me today, okay?”

““...”“

It's a bit unacceptable for the children to have a higher level than me, so I would like them to let me level up here. Therefore, when I asked the two, they were troubled.

“Okay?”

““.....Uniyu~”“

When I asked once more, the two reluctantly accepted.

“But, you are bringing them with you, right!? Isn't it dangerous!?”

“Fufu. Allen-sama’s and Elena-sama’s swimming is so skillful that even I was startled, so they won’t become a burden. Besides, they know how to fight”

“They have a talent for magic after all. They won’t have problems defending themselves”

“Ehh!? Is that so!? Eh? It was only me who didn’t know!?”

Mirena-san who saw Allen and Elena swimming and Gard-san who instructed them in magic were watching with consent, so Miko Himesama called out in surprise again.

I wonder how many times we made her surprised in this short time~ Somehow... I'm sorry.

Chapter 93

Bone Shark

Mirena-san took over the role to guide me to the place where the crimson luminous moss grows.

There are three other mermen youth accompanying us. The youths are dressed as soldiers and they are apparently the strongest people in the Blue Waters Shrine. Most likely feeling bad for leaving the Bone Shark to me alone, Miko Himesama must have let them follow us as a battle force.

Well, I would be fine even if they weren't here, but I should just think of them as Mirena-san's guards.

““Yaa!”“

When Sand Crabs monsters appeared along the way, Allen and Elena swam and thrust towards them with a great vigor, instantly defeating them.

“““...”“

The three youths were dumbfounded by Allen's and Elena's fighting style.

“Strong, aren't they? But, you guys are accompanying us as a battle force, so please be careful of your surroundings so you don't lag behind the two”

Mirena-san lit the fire of the three youths.

But, I think it would be quite difficult to act faster than Allen and Elena. There are times when my response time is slower than theirs after all...

“Takumi-sama, we are close”

““Ah! It came~!”“

When we were about to arrive, the Bone Shark appeared from the front accompanied

by loud noises.

“Mirena-san”

“Yes!”

“Is there no mistake that the crimson luminous moss place is in the direction the Bone Shark came from?”

“Yes, that’s correct!”

“Then, I will attract the Bone Shark and pull it away from this place, so Mirena-san and others take cover for a moment and go to the place once it seems all right”

Even if unlikely, I don’t want to waste the crimson luminous moss place. If I’m to fight, I would rather do it somewhere further away.

“Then, take these guys with you...”

“No, it’s better for them to stay close to Mirena-san. We can’t be sure there are no other tough monsters after all”

“Yes! But still!”

“It will be fine. —— <Water Spear>“

I attacked the Bone Shark with magic in order to provoke it.

“Allen, Elena, let’s go~”

““Yess~”“

“Ta, Takumi-sama~”

Mirena-san spoke in a voice that was about to cry, but I started swimming without minding it.

I saw the Bone Shark chasing after us while making rattling noises. The provocation went smoothly.

“—Oops”

I dodge the chasing Bone Shark who tried to ram me from behind. It's fast as expected. I'm unlikely to win against the Bone Shark in swimming.

“<Water Wall>”

The Bone Shark turned around and charged towards us again, so I created a wall of water and blocked it from reaching us.

Now then, what to do? Come to think of it, what will happen if I use healing magic on an undead?

I'm bit curious... let's give it a try.

“<Heal>”

I tried using healing magic on the Bone Shark.

Then, the Bone Shark started violently struggling.

Un, it received damage. This seems to be effective. If that's the case—

“<Overheal>”

<Overheal> is magic that recovers more than the received damage—so to speak, it's excessive recovery magic.

When I fired that magic, a white light sprang forth with me in the center. It wasn't an intense eye-straining light, but a warm and comfortable one. Nothing in particular happened to us, but the bones of the Bone Shark who was covered by that light broke, not able to keep the form of shark anymore.

““Ohh~””

“...Huh? It worked better than I expected”

““Onii~chan, amazing!””

Allen and Elena praise me without holding back.

Light magic seems to be more effective against undead more than I thought. Rather, it works too much. Despite being a B-rank monster, it has been simply disposed of.

The scattered bones of the Bone Shark slowly descent to the bottom of the sea.

“Allen, Elena. Will you help me collecting the bones?”

““Un!”“

The bones of Bone Shark are materials for hard weapons, so I had Allen and Elena help me pick them up.

“Mirena-san”

““We are back~”“

“Ta, Takumi-sama! Allen-sama and Elena-sama too! I’m glad you are safe! D, do you have any injuries!?”

“We are fine. Both the children and I are unhurt”

““Is fine~”“

“I’m glad~”

Mirena-san made an expression of relief. Looks like we made her worried.

“So, the Bone Shark is...”

“It’s okay. I have defeated it”

““Defeated it~”“

“Really!? Thank you very much!”

“Ohh~”the three mermen youths raised their voices in admiration.

But, if you look at me with such eyes of pure respect... it’s not like I obtained the 【Light Magic】 on my own, so I feel extremely guilty.

“Ah~... we have collected the materials as well, so I will hand it to you later if you need it. So, is that the crimson luminous moss sticking on that rock?”

“Yes, that’s right”

I would love to excuse myself from such atmosphere, so I decided to plainly change the subject.

The fairly large rock was sunk at the bottom of the sea and it was shining red, so I was quite curious.

“It’s pretty, isn’t it?”

“Shiny~”

“Pretty~”

Allen and Elena were entranced by the crimson luminous moss.

Ah, which reminds me, crimson luminous moss is a material I don’t have.

“Mirena-san, may I pick a little as well?”

“Of course”

When I asked whether I can collect some for myself, Mirena-san pleasantly approved, so I picked some moss, checked the surroundings for monsters one more time, and we returned to the Blue Waters Shrine.

When we returned, we were immediately guided to Miko Himesama.

“Ta, Takumi-samaa~! Welcome back~!”

“We have returned. The Bone Shark has been safely eliminated”

“Is that the truth! Thank you very much”

When I reported that the Bone Shark has been eliminated, Miko Himesama was clearly delighted.

“Takumi-sama, these are the things we promised. Please, store them”

“Eh!?”

Gard-san gave his thanks too and handed over the mermaid bracelets, but... there were about ten. I'm certain I asked for three, but to prepare this much...

“Is this many really fine?”

“Yes, of course it is. It's just this is all we currently have, so I would have to ask you to wait if this much is not enough”

That means these are all bracelets in their storage, right? In addition, they will make more if it's not enough, right? It looks like they will prepare even an unreasonable number if I demand it, oy.

But, I can't imagine underwater activity with more bracelets than this!

“N, no! This is enough. Thank you very much”

“Is that so?”

“Yes!”

Moreover, when politely declined, Gard-san looked disappointed for some reason.

Ah, even Miko Himesama and Mirena-san are making the same expression as Gard-san... I wonder what is it that they want from me?

Well, after ignoring the three making disappointed expressions, we chatted with everyone and we decided to return to the town before it gets dark.

“Takumi-sama. You must definitely come to visit if you are nearby again, okay?”

“Yes. I won't say it will be soon, but we will come again”

“Allen-sama, Elena-sama too, let's meet again, okay?”

“Un! Bye bye~”“

On the way back, I used 【Telepathy】 to say farewell to Kaiser too. Then, Kaiser immediately replied, he currently seems to be somewhere in the open ocean far away.

We unfortunately couldn't meet, so when I reported through the 【Telepathy】 that we are leaving the town, he told me to call him immediately if something happens. With a grateful reply, we swam towards the beach.

Chapter 94

Departure

Once our preparations for travel were done, we have said farewell to everyone in the Risner House we have stayed in for such a long time. Theodore-kun and Latis-kun were looking sad, but after promising them to write letters, we have moved together with Wald-sama and Isaac-san outside the town.

Other than Wald-sama and Isaac-san, Oswald-san and Mars-kun are accompanying us to the royal capital. Oswald-san is a taciturn man in his thirties and Mars-kun is a friendly, nineteen years old youth.

These two apparently came along with Wald-sama and Isaac-san from Shirin because their duties have been transferred to the capital as well.

“Don’t approach the feet of the horses because it’s dangerous! Do you understand?”

[Kyan <Got it~>]

[Naa~ <We will be fine~>]

[Pii]

[Garu]

On this travel, Joule and others are acting together with us, so I called everyone once we left the town. Of course, the three that I made everyone think they are children are in their small forms.

Then, after cautioning everyone, they all returned a proper reply. Whether it was to deceive our fellow travel companions, Joule and Feat who can use 【Telepathy】 let out proper animal cries.

And then, when the preparations were done and we were about to depart, a problem has occurred.

“Ride with Onii~chan~”

“Elena too~”

“...”

Either Allen or Elena will ride the horse I ride, but... we haven't decided who is going to ride first.

There was no problem riding with one at a time during the practice.

I had them ride with Isaac-san for trial, but there also wasn't a problem.

However, it was done when they were separated both times, so there was no need to split them between Isaac-san and me.

“Since you will switch midway, how about one of you rides with Isaac-san now?”

“No~”

“...”

Ah~ this is no good. It feels like the two's opinion won't bend no matter what.

...Now then, what should I do~

“Let's see~ Takumi-san, get on the horse first for now”

“Eh? Ah, yes”

While troubled over what to do, Isaac-san told me to mount the horse, so I got on the horse as told. Then, Isaac-san lifted up Elena and placed her on the horse in front of me.

Next, he lifted Allen and placed him behind me.

“Allen-kun, please tightly hold on Takumi-san's neck and shoulders”

“Un!”

“Ehh!?”

Isaac-san let Allen stand on the horse's butt, he's holding me as if I was piggybacking him.

This is... surely not, right~...

“...Isaac-san, moving like this is not good, is it?”

“They will not fall if it's Allen-kun or Elena-san. Just in case, let's tie the child behind you to you”

Seriously!? Am I really let the horse gallop when he's in such posture?

Hey, Isaac-san promptly took out a rope or rather a belt, and tied Allen to me.

“Hey! Isaac-san, what's the matter with that belt!?”

“I thought it might be necessary, so I prepared it just in case”

Uwa... what a high-quality preparation...

Allen happily clung to my neck, peeping to the front with his knees dangling in the air while Elena was looking forward to the change of turns.

<Oh~ that looks quite fun, doesn't it?>

<Fufufu. He seems happy~>

Joule and Feat were looking at us as if seeing something heartwarming.

It appears that there's no person who is going to tsukkomi here.

“Alright, seems like we are ready. Then, let's depart~”

““Departu~re!”“

“...”

Allen and Elena thrust their fists upwards in response to Wald-sama's words.

I lightly sighed and instructed the horse. The uncomfortableness was terrible when the horse started moving, but it disappeared after running for a while. Rather, I got used to it instantly?

““Coming~”“

A little while after leaving the town, Allen and Elena suddenly called out.

“Really!? Oswald, Mars. Can you confirm the monsters?”

“There are! Three wolves at the front!”

Wald-sama could guess what the children's short comment meant and immediately instructed his subordinates. Then, before long, wolves appeared in front of us.

Allen and Elena were with me on the horseback, so they were fidgety because they couldn't jump down and defeat the wolves.

“Wolves, huh. Do we keep going? Or do we get down from the horses?”

“We don't have to get down from the horses. Bolt, can I ask you to take care of it?”

[Pyuruu~]

Isaac-san was asking Wald-sama for instructions, but I interrupted their exchange and asked Bolt to take care of the wolves.

Then, Bolt let out a cry of acknowledgment and flew towards the wolves.

[Pyui~]

“““Gyaun!”““

Bolt fired lightning from the skies at the wolves. The wolves were defeated in no time. Then, he took one of the wolves by its leg and brought it to me who was on the horseback.

[Pyuru]

“Thank you, Bolt”

After I put the corpse of the wolf into the <Infinite Storage>, Bolt flew to get the other wolves.

"Takumi really doesn't have any limits... are you not even going to stop to process the corpses?"

"Well, it's Takumi-san after all. It helps that there's no blood flowing because this is the main road though"

"Even though they weren't monsters that strong, to defeat them in one strike..."

"As expected of a Thunderhawk!"

"Hahaha~"

I heard both exhausted and admiration voices from Wald-sama and others.

It was because of Bolt who was carrying the defeated wolves, but they were electrocuted this time. They seem astonished that there was no blood flowing.

That's because there's a possibility of others monsters being attracted by the blood flow. But you see~ Allen and Elena defeat most monsters by impact, Joule and others also ram their opponents most of the time, so flowing blood is rare itself in our case~

[Pyuru?]

"It's nothing. Thanks for your hard work"

"Hard work~"

[Pyuru!]

Bolt stayed on my arm after bringing me the three corpses and was tilting head in "What's the matter?" manner, so I patted Bolt's head in thanks.

"Wald-sama, shall we go?"

"Ou, let's go"

We let the horses run again, stopped along the way for a break and arrived at a small

village in the evening. We will be staying here today.

Extra 2

Dream★

““Onii~chan, Onii~chan!”“

“N? What’s the matter?”

““You see, you see~ I saw a dream~”“

“A dream? What kind of a dream?”

“Many sweets~!”

“Huge~ too!”

(Sweet and big, huh~... they are excited to this extent, so they must have eaten considerably large sweets in the dream, didn’t they~)

•

•

(Was it this kind of a dream....?)

“Was it tasty?”

““Un! Delish~!”“

“I see~ Then, you don’t want today’s sweets anymore?”

““No~! Want~”“

“Kuku. Then, will you help me make them?”

““Un!”“

Chapter 95

Majesta

“Takumi, we will take a break there”

“Okay, I understand”

The second day after leaving Bailey. We have been riding the horses since the morning today as well, it's almost time for the lunch.

The place Wald-sama designated as our resting place was an empty open plain with a large tree growing in the center.

“That's a big tree, isn't it~”

“That's a Majesta tree. Oh my, how rare. It's bearing fruit”

Majesta tree is considerably thick, large tree with thick green leaves bearing many yellow fruits. Erm—Yeah~ Majesta tree's fruit season is irregular, so the times the fruit grows seems to be unpredictable.

While looking up at the Majesta tree, I fumbled about the imprinted knowledge and knowledge related to that.

““Is delish~?””

“It seems to be tasty”

In fact, Majesta seems to be very delicious. However, it's a very rare fruit.

Since the fruit grows irregularly then it's only given that it's rare, but to happen to pass by just as the fruit is ripe... what a terrifying coincidence.

Seeing rare fruit makes me want to try eating it in a mountain of ways, but the bark of Majesta tree is hard and slippery, the whole trunk is covered in branches and bumps, so it would be difficult to collect the fruit which grows at the top.

It might be possible to collect them if we had a long ladder prepared, but Majesta apparently bears fruit just for half a day then it rots and falls. That's why there's no opportunity to return to the town as it's necessary to gather the fruit immediately after seeing it or you will lose the chance to gather them.

Moreover, while the fruit is quick to rot on the tree, it's a mysterious fruit that is storable for a very long time after it's harvested.

[Piii~]

“N? ——Oopsy”

When I looked up after hearing Bolt's cry, Bolt who flew over at the top of the tree poked a branch with a fruit and dropped it down. It was a fruit that was slightly larger than my fist.

“Thank you, Bolt”

[Pii]

Bolt continued and dropped a few more fruits.

“Here, Bolt got it for you”

““Muu~”“

“N? What's the matter, Allen, Elena?”

When I handed over the Majesta fruit to Allen and Elena who were greatly interested in it, they were sulking for some reason.

“Allen will get it~”

“Elena will too~”

“Eh? I understand your feelings of wanting to get it, but you can't reach it, right?”

Allen and Elena said that they want to get it themselves. But, Majesta fruit is at the very top. Bolt was able to get the fruit because of flying.

Because of the unevenness and branches that are in the way of climbing, even Allen and Elena wouldn't be able to climb this tree.

““Make us po~n”“

“Po~n?”

““Un!”“

Po~n, huh... hey!

“Eh!? Do you perhaps mean to throw you up!?”

““Un!”“

Shockingly, Allen and Elena demand me to throw them up into the thick leaves and branches. As expected, throwing you two is impossible—... it actually isn't. I can do it, surely.

Certainly, using this method they would arrive at the top without the struggle of climbing. But, however—

“No, no! Even the branches at the top seem to be slippery, so it's dangerous, you know? Bolt will get the fruit for us, so there's no need to recklessly pick them yourself, okay?”

““Will go~”“

“...”

The two seem to be determined. Rather, there's not much I can say once the two speak up.

Not being able to help it, I decided to let the two do as they want and ready myself under the tree in case they fall.

“Let's start with Allen”

“Un!”

“Oy, Takumi. What are you planning to do!?”

“Ah, Wald-sama. The two are saying they want to pick the Majesta fruit, so... --up you go”

I lifted Allen and vigorously flung him up.

The flung Allen skillfully grasped a branch and landed without a difficulty.

“Are you okay~?”

“Okay~”

When I called him, he returned a lively reply.

“Elena too~”

“Yes, yes. It’s Elena’s turn next”

“Un!”

“Up you go!”

Next, I lifted the urging Elena and flung her up just like Allen.

Elena skillfully grasped a branch too and made a landing on top of it.

“You two, be careful not to fall down, okay~”

““Yess~”“

While cautioning them not to fall, Allen and Elena replied while jumping from one branch to another and started picking up the Majesta fruit.

“What an outside the norm thing...”

“Well~ The two are the type who won’t listen once they decide on something... --oh”

As soon as my hands were empty, Bolt dropped a fruit.

“Joule, Feat, Vector. I will give you baskets, so help me collecting the fruit, okay~”

[Kyan]

[Nnaa~]

[Garu]

Feat grabbed the basket in her mouth, flew up and started receiving the fruit from Allen and Elena directly. Joule and Vector started skillfully catching the fruit Bolt dropped into their baskets.

The harvesting continued for a while and the Majesta fruit in sight has nearly disappeared.

““Onii~chan!”“

“Are you done? Then, descend one by one. Let’s start with Allen, okay?”

“Un”

Saying such, Allen jumped down from the branch without a hesitation.

I toned down the force of Allen’s falling by a little with wind magic and caught him.

“Welcome back”

“I’m back~”

I lower Allen whom I safely caught on the ground and prompt Elena to jump next.

“Elena, you can go~”

“Un”

Elena jumped down without any hesitation as well.

I toned down the force of Elena’s fall just like with Allen and caught her.

“Welcome back”

“I’m here~”

When I lowered Elena on the ground, the two started taking out the Majesta fruit from the magic pouches on their waists.

““Got many~”“

“Wai, wait a moment... —you two, put it in here”

It seems they harvested fruit besides the fruit they gave to Feat.

Panicking, I retrieved a new basket from the <Inifnite Storage> and told the two to place the fruit in it. Allen and Elena started taking out the fruit one by one and filling up the basket.

“Wow~ you two worked hard~”

The Majesta fruit piled up in the basket in no time.

Adding everything up, we got quite a lot. It's a considerably large tree, so it seems to bear a lot of fruit.

“Why don't we try eating it?”

““Un!”“

Majesta fruit is delicious on its own, so I decided to try a taste.

After I used <Washing> on the fruits and handed them to Allen and Elena, the two turned towards the four knights which accompanied us.

““Here!”“

Saying such, they held out the fruits in their hands.

“You will give us too?”

““Un!”“

“Thank you very much”

Isaac-san dropped to his knees to match Allen's and Elena's line of sight and received

the Majesta fruit from the two with a smile. Following after him, Wald-sama, Oswald-san, and Mars-kun received the fruit as well.

“Takumi, is that really fine? You can make quite a lot by selling this fruit, ya know?”

“I don’t mind. Even if you say quite a lot... we have this much, after all~”

“...”

Although Wald-sama and others received the Majesta fruit, they seemed to be hesitant. Mars-kun was so nervous I found him pitiable.

However, when I pointed at the baskets full of the fruit we harvested, everyone made shocked expressions.

“Here, it’s everyone’s share~”

““Yess~”“

[Kyan <Yaa~y>]

[Nnaa~ <Niisama, thank you>]

[Pii]

[Garu~]

I handed the Majesta fruit to Allen, Elena, Joule, and others who tried it immediately.

““It’s delish~”“

“Un, it’s tasty. Allen, Elena, thank you for getting them for us”

““Ehehe~”“

“Bolt too, thank you”

[Pyururu~]

Actually, the Majesta fruit was juicy and crunchy similarly to a Japanese pear, it’s a

delicious and quite sweet fruit. All of the children seem to like it.

Wald-sama and others also started eating and they were quite impressed.

““Will go one more time~”“

When we finished eating, Allen and Elena said that they wanted to go up one more time. But—

“No, no, didn’t you guys take as much as you could?”

““There’s many, you know~?”“

“Eh!?”

When I looked up where Allen and Elena were pointing, a ridiculous spectacle entered my sight.

“Eh! How!?”

The Majesta fruit that was supposed to be harvested was there once again. Mysterious vegetation is really full of mysteries...

Chapter 96

Desired

““Ah”“

“N? What’s the matter?”

““It became red~”“

“Eh...?”

When Allen and Elena safely returned to the ground from harvesting Majesta fruit once again, they pointed above again for some reason. When I looked up wondering whether the fruit regrew again, the leaves changed from green and became bright red in an instant.

““Ama~zing”“

“This is...”

To change into autumn colors in an instant... Majesta tree really is a mysterious tree.

“!! Allen-kun, Elena-san! I’m sorry, but could you please go up again and get us some of the red leaves?”

““U?”“

Isaac-san requested Allen and Elena to collect the leaves.

Majesta’s red leaves, huh... ahh! Green leaves are simply leaves, but red leaves are usable for medicine. These red leaves are irregular as well, it’s said they appear once in several years. Moreover, they return back to green in a few hours.

““Ah!”“

While in the middle of looking up the knowledge about Majesta, Oswald-san and Mars-

kun called out too.

“I would like to ask you as well! Please collect the leaves!”

“It’s fine if you just drop them! We will pick them up!”

They started entreating the children in a very desperate way.

Err, what are Majesta leaves used for again... —Ah! It’s a medicine for athlete’s foot!

The Iwamizu Moss we came across in the Gaya Forest was also a herb used for athlete’s foot, but that was just a material used to suppress the itch. However, Majesta leaves are used to completely cure the athlete’s foot.

“Allen, Elena. Those red leaves are used for medicine”

““Herb~?”“

“That’s correct, they are herbs. Could you get them please?”

““Alright~”“

Getting the two’s approval, I flung them to the top of the tree again.

“Feat and Bolt too, could you help dropping the leaves?”

[Naa~ <Un, okay~>]

[Piii]

When I asked Feat and Bolt to help dropping the leaves, the two animal immediately flew up.

“Those two will drop the leaves, may I ask you to collect them?”

“Yes! Thank you very much, Takumi-dono!”

“Thank you very much!”

They thanked me in great spirits.

“...No, yeah, don’t mind it. Nevertheless, Oswald-san and Mars-kun seem to know what those leaves are used for, right?”

It’s no wonder that the extensively knowledgeable Isaac-san knows, but I found it curious that Oswald-san and Mars-kun knew it as well.

“Well of course! It’s a material I desire, so I memorized it!”

“I gave up because it’s a material that can’t be obtained easily, but I can have a hope with this!”

“.....”

Ah... the two are also humans troubled by the itch, huh... well, it can’t be helped when walking in stuffy boots with poor breathability for long periods of time. Can’t be helped.

That being the case, since they know the herb, if we collect as many leaves as possible, we may help a lot of troubled people.

“W, what?”

Only Wald-sama wasn’t able to get the situation.

“Wald-sama, those leaves are used for a medicine that completely cures skin itch”

“Wha, whaaat---!!”

Wald-sama screamed after hearing Isaac-san’s words and joined Oswald-san and Mars-kun who were already hurriedly picking up the leaves.

Wald-sama and others collected the leaves in great vigor and collected quite a lot of leaves. Well, Isaac-san was going at his own pace.

“Everyone~ it’s enough~”

““Finished~?”“

[Nnaa~? <Is it enough?>]

“We have secured a plenty of leaves. Allen, Elena, Feat, Bolt, thank you”

I help Allen and Elena down from the tree and thank Feat and Bolt for their work as well.

[Pyui! <Aniue~!>]

“N?”

At that time, an unfamiliar voice resounded in my head. But, I heard it overlapping with Bolt’s voice, so...

<... Is this perhaps Bolt’s voice?>

[Pyurururu! <Yes, Aniue! I have learned telepathy~>]

<Oh, congratulations! I see, Bolt has learned telepathy... erm, you are a male, right?>

I dared to confirm Bolt’s gender which I wasn’t clear about.

Unlike mammals, I couldn’t judge the gender of Bolt who is a bird from his appearances. This voice I’m hearing through the telepathy would be boyish if I had to choose? Is what I think, but the voice sounds younger than Joule’s, so I can’t be certain.

<Yes, I’m a male>

<I see... >

… I’m glad. Because the name[Bolt]seems to be more suitable for a male, I feel relieved that he’s male.

<Aniue. I really like the name Bolt>

Bolt said so as if seeing through me. But, it makes me really happy that he likes his name.

““Bolt, you did it~”“

<Ohh~ Bolt has learned telepathy too~>

<Yes>

<That leaves just Vector>

[…Garu~]

It might have been just my imagination, but Vector seemed a bit down. Well, Vector is the only one who can't use telepathy yet. He might be feeling left out.

[Garu-!!]

“Eh! Oy, Vector, where are you going?”

But, Vector ran off somewhere all of sudden afterward.

<I'm going to defeat monsters and learn telepathy, he said~>

“Eh?”

It seems he left a verbal message behind which Joule conveyed to me.

<But, but~ it's not like he will learn the skill by leveling up, right~?>

<That's right. Rather than that, he would have a better chance to learn it by conversing with us through telepathy>

<It seems he didn't like being left out~>

Un, of course. I won't say it's unrelated, but it's not like he will learn the skill by increasing his level.

“Feat, I'm sorry but could you please go after him?”

<Un, alright~>

Contracted beasts are connected by magical power so they won't get lost, but Vector is a worrisome child, so I had the most caring Feat to supervise him.

<Ah, Niisama~ May I borrow a magic bag? I would like to collect the materials if they don't turn into cinders~>

“…Ah, yeah, here you go”

Handing a magic bag to Feat, she ran after Vector.

Rather cinders, huh... that's very likely. Let's pray he won't burn the surroundings down.

Wald-sama and others were wondering where the two animals ran off to, but after I told them not to worry about, we decided to end the break earlier and continue advancing.

Chapter 97

Step to Popularization

A few hours later, Feat and Vector returned.

<<We are back~>>

Together with Feat's voice, I heard a mischevious boyish voice. Apparently, Vector has safely learned the 【Telepathy】 skill. Whether he learned it by defeating monsters or thanks to Feat using 【Telepathy】 and cooperating with him, that I don't know.

"Seems like you safely learned it"

<Un! I learned it~>

"Thank you, Feat"

<It's fine~ Ah, these are monster materials. As I thought, he was turning them to cinders at first, so I couldn't get too much though>

Ehh!? He really turned them to cinders!

"W, was there no damage to the surroundings?"

<There was a time a place nearly got burnt, but nothing that would become a problem happened, so it's fine>

"I, I see"

Well, a bit burnt is tolerable.

Pulling myself together, it was already time, so we decided to move to the next camping place.

And, since I was entrusted with the meals everywhere that is not an inn, I immediately started the preparations.

“Allen, Elena. What do you want to eat?”

““N, you see~... — Curry rice!”“

Oh! It's time for curry rice!

Come to think of it, Wald-sama and others have eaten dishes with curry spice before, but they haven't eaten curry yet, right? In that case, I think it should be fine for curry to become today's main dish on the menu, but... what to do about rice?

N~ I shouldn't worry too much about it and ask directly.

“Excuse me. Does anyone feel repulsive about eating White Wheat?”

“White Wheat you say, that White Wheat? That thing is hard to eat, isn't it?”

Wald-sama reacted to my question first.

“It can immensely soften after cooked. We ate it a lot in my hometown instead of bread”

“Is that so? Any of Takumi's dishes are delicious. I don't mind”

“That's right. I have no objections as well”

“Me too”

“I'm also good. Captain has been always boasting how delicious Takumi-san's dishes are, so I'm looking forward to it!”

I unexpectedly smoothly got everyone's approval.

White Wheat might not have the image of being animal feed, but it might have hard to eat image instead.

“Thank you very much. I will make it immediately. — Allen, Elena, let's do it~”

““Yess~”“

I think of asking the two to help me make ice cream for after the meal dessert. It's the

perfect time for a dessert because it's still hot.

I mix sugar with eggs and add the thick milk—a fresh cream like thing we have recently discovered. This is where I would like to put vanilla beans. I still don't have them, so maybe next time. I think of going with a simple ice cream.

No, egg ice cream? Well, either is fine.

Then, the mixture is heated for a moment. It can be done without the heating, but food poisoning is scary. Safety first! I cool it after heating and split that liquid into three parts.

If I can make this skillfully, I would like to challenge various flavored ice creams. What I could do now is a strawberry-like flavor from "Iichi Fruit", caramel, Kahee, and black tea. I could also put nuts in. Rum raisins may work too, but... I don't have rum after all. How are brandy raisins, I wonder? I have a stock, should I give it a try? Among others, I could also do mint flavor and roasted soybeans flavor? It's too bad that I don't have the royal road of flavors, chocolate, but it seems that I will be able to make a decent one out of certain materials.

"Allen, Elena, could you stir this for me please?"

"Yes~"

I freeze one part instantly with <Freeze> magic and put it in the <Infinite Storage>. I freeze another part and have Allen and Elena stir it and slowly repeat the process a few times.

"You guys roll the ice so it won't break, okay~"

<<<<Yes~>>>

Then, I put the last part in a container and seal it. I requested Joule to make an ice ball with the container in the center and have them roll it.

If I'm correct, the hardness or rather the texture of the ice cream should be different.

The children gave me a cheerful reply and everyone started their respective work, but the work of Joule and others feels like a game, so Allen and Elena were a bit interested at first, but they immediately started focusing on their own work.

While the children are working, I start making the curry rice.

First, I prepare the White Wheat in a large quantity. I think it would be necessary to make a good amount for the four knights, so I have to cook it several times. It doesn't take too much time to cook, so I will manage.

As for the curry... shall I make the alligator curry I made before? I retrieve the ingredients from the <Infinite Storage> and continue working.

"Oh, looks good!"

"“Done~?”“

"Un, you did well. Thank you"

Just as I was cooking the veggies, the ice cream was completed.

"Here, taste it"

"“Ahh~... —— Nniyu~”“

When I spoon the ice cream Allen and Elena made and bring it in their mouths, the two held down their cheeks and showed the faces of satisfaction.

Before I noticed, Joule and others gathered too, so I gave everyone a mouthful.

"How is it?"

"“Delish~! More~!”“

It appears that Allen and Elena like the ice cream quite a lot. Their "More, more" requesting voices were something.

"N~ then, I will give you a mouthful of each type. The rest is after the meal"

"“ <<< <Un!> >>> ”“

I decided that we might as well taste and compare the ice cream Joule and others rolled around and the one I stored the moment I froze it.

Judging from the results, each came out deliciously, and if I had to choose, then the one Allen and Elena stirred came out the smoothest. Well, I think there's only a slight difference though.

N~ there should also be the method of whipping the fresh cream and mixing ingredients in. Would it come out smoother that way?

But you see~ the best method is the laborless freezing method. It's a simple method so Allen and Elena would have an easier time, and above all, it would be easier to make various kinds.

Ah, there's also the hand of making a magic tool that would easily whip the fresh cream. Let's try asking in a magic tool shop in the capital.

"Then, the tasting is over. Let's make the curry~"

"" < < < <Yesss~> > > ""

Finishing the ice cream tasting, I resume cooking of curry.

"Looks delicious"

"It smells really nice~"

"It has an appetite stimulating fragrance, isn't it?"

"This scent makes me feel even hungrier~"

When I got to the stage of adding the spices and cooking it together, the knights who were waiting and preparing the camp in the distance impatiently approached. As I thought, the curry's fragrance is the best, it's a "human pampering."

I let it mature with magic this time as well, and it's complete!

"It's done, so let's have a meal"

When I said such, *I was waiting for this*, everyone was making such expression.

"Tasty~!"

“This is the White Wheat, huh. So it could become this soft”

“Also, this is quite filling, isn’t it?”

“It’s very delicious!”

The children are also eating deliciously, but the reaction of the knights was far greater.

Nevertheless, the reaction after eating the White Wheat was superb. The reaction of Vivian whom I let it eat before was also good, so the tongues of the people of Aetherdia might be close to Japanese people’s as I thought.

““Onii~chan, aisu~”“

After finished eating the meal, Allen and Elena urged for the dessert ice cream.

Not only that, the two were also “quickly, quickly” repeating while pulling on my clothes. Joule and others were also rubbing against my body as if trying to press me.

“Alright, I got it”

I retrieved ice cream from the <Infinite Storage>, served it in bowls and handed it to the children. Of course, I have it to Wald-sama and others as well.

““Yum-yum~”“

[Kyau~ <This is really delicious after all~>]

[Unaa~ <It’s delicious>]

[Pyuru~ <Delicious>]

[Garu~ <Yummy~>]

As expected, the children seemed to considerably like the ice cream and everyone ate it deliciously.

And, as for Wald-sama and others—

aaaaa maaaa
...
...

They were silently indulging themselves. Well, there's no doubt that they like it.

Chapter 98

Alveil

We have arrived at Alveil, a town between Bailey and the Capital. Tonight, we will spend the night here.

“This is also quite a large town, isn’t it?”

““Big~ isn’t it~”“

Joule and others returned into my shadow when we entered the town, and we advanced on the main street to find the inn we will be staying at first.

“The inn is over there”

What Wald-sama pointed at was an inn called[Red Piglet’s]. It seems to be quite a high-class inn. There were inns along the way too, but the lodging fees are apparently on the country’s expenses. As far as it goes, we seem to be treated as the king’s guests of honor.

After checking in, we had a free time until the dinner, so I decided to walk around the town with Allen and Elena.

““Where to~”“

“Shall we go shopping?”

““Shopping~?”“

“Yeah. Tell me if there’s something you guys want, okay?”

““Un”“

Alveil seems to have rich production, so I hope to find something new~

“First of all, shall we buy nuts to put into the ice cream~?”

““Aisu~”“

“Many nuts~!”

“Make lots~!”

When I conveyed that I wanted to purchase nuts and included their utilization, the two were clearly pleased.

“You want to buy them that much?”

““Ma~ny!”“

After that, the two walked all the way to the shop while singing “Nuts~ nuts~♪” in a good humor.

“Welcome”

“Hello~ I would like to buy nuts, could you show me what you have?”

When we entered the shop, a shopkeeper-ish middle-aged uncle smilingly called out to us, so I immediately asked him to show me the goods.

“Nuts? In that case, we have Kotou nuts, Aman, Maro nuts... and Kashu”

Umm... walnuts and almonds. Oh, Maro is similar to Japanese chestnut. That one is Cashew nuts.

I thought I would be lucky if they had one thing I didn't have, but they have two, Japanese chestnut and Cashew. This is an instant buy.

“I would like each kind, but give me somewhat larger quantity of Maro and Kashu please”

““Ma~ny!”“

“Thank you for your patronage~”

When I conveyed that I want to buy, Allen and Elena emphasized my “somewhat larger quantity.”

“Alright, how about this much?”

““More~”“

The shop’s uncle filled a paper bag with nuts and when he looked at us to confirm the quantity, Allen and Elena said in discontent.

“More, you say?”

““More!”“

“More, huh? Niisan, is that fine?”

“Yes, it’s fine. Put in a little bit more please”

A considerable amount of nuts was already stuffed in the paper bag, so the shop’s uncle was worried whether we could eat all that, or maybe if we have enough money, but the amount of nuts increased until Allen and Elena were satisfied.

“Allen, Elena. Shall we buy some dried fruit for snacks too?”

““Un”“

“Allen, Kukuru!”

“Elena, Shian!”

“Kukuru fruit and Shian fruit it is then. Alright. You don’t want anything else?”

““Hmm? I~chi?”“

“Ichi fruit, got it”

Grapes and fig. And also strawberries.

“N? This is.....”

When I was about to tell the shop’s uncle about the fruit Allen and Elena wanted to buy, I caught a sight of something I haven’t seen before.

“Oh, Niisan, you have sharp eyes~ These are Starberries. They are a difficult to get hold of, first-class goods with have twice the sugar content of Ichi fruit. Well, they are best when fresh, so they are even rarer when dried”

“Hee~”

Starberries, huh~ It's appearances are similar to strawberry. But, it's a size bigger and yellow in color. Ah, but the name seems derived. I can see a faint star pattern on the surface. Since it's first-class goods, it must be delicious. Un, then, let's buy it.

“This, may I buy it up?”

“Ou, I don't mind!”

There's not that many being sold, so I decided to buy all there is.

““Onii~chan, aah~!”“

“Haha~ that's right. You want to try it”

““Un”“

Because it's rare and when you hear it's delicious, you would want to try it immediately.

“After we pay, okay?”

““Quickly~”“

“I got it, I got it. Ojisan, how much it adds up to?”

““How much~?”“

“Ou, wait a moment”

Until I paid, Allen and Elena demandingly continued pulling on the hem of my clothes.

“Here, Allen, Elena”

““Aah~”“

When I presented the Starberries I have received, the two widely opened their mouths in wait. It's just that the Starberries are a little too big to eat whole, so instead of entering their mouths, half of the fruits were sticking out of their mouths.

“Is it tasty?”

““Tashty~”“

When I asked for impressions on the taste, the two sweetly smiled. Their expressions resemble the one they made when eating ice cream.

Furthermore, the two were staring at my face after finishing eating.

“What’s the matter?”

““Uniyu~...”“

“Ahh. Do you perhaps want to eat one more?”

“Will endure~”

“Next time~”

Oh my, oh my, they want to eat it, but it seems they will endure.

“Really?”

““Really~”“

“I see. Then, let’s buy something to eat from the stalls at the main street”

““Un!”“

My stomach also feels empty, so when I proposed to eat something at the stalls, the children accepted my proposal.

“Alright, let’s go~”

““Let’s go~ let’s go~”“

And then, when we got onto the main street—

“Ah!”“

“N?”

Allen and Elena suddenly raised their voices after looking at the opposite side of the street.

Chapter 99

Regrettable Beauty, Once Again

“Ah, aren’t you Oniisan from that time!”

When I looked where Allen and Elena were pointing, a familiar red-haired woman was running over to us. She’s the vampire woman we have met before, Vivian.

“I’m not your older brother!”

“I’m indeed older than you, aren’t I~ What was your name again?”

“...Oy”

“That’s a lie~ I’m only joking! It was Takumi-san, wasn’t it? I properly remember you~”

“...”

“Rather than that, this must be a fate. I’m extremely happy to meet you again! Well then, please give me food!”

“...”

Haa? I think I lost her a bit there...

“Food?”

“Yes, food. Anything’s fine, so please let me eat”

“No, no, why! There are food stalls around here, so you should just buy food from them, right?”

“Don’t wanna~ I want to eat food made by you!”

“...”

That's an enormous complaint.

As expected, I'm not such kind stranger that would go "Ah, is that so? Then, here you go" when told "I want to eat".

"Of course, I won't eat for free! I have properly prepared the compensation!"

Vivian said such while puffing out her chest and presenting small bottles, so I looked at the bottles with 【Appraisal】 first.

【Drops of Blue Rose】

A vampire specially made conception medicine. A medicine for a certain conception.

Immediate effect. The effect lasts approximately half a day.

Excellent product with no side effects. Women exclusive use.

【Drops of Yellow Rose】

A vampire specially made contraceptive. Absolute contraceptive.

Immediate effect. The effect lasts for three whole days.

Excellent product with no side effects. Women exclusive use.

【Drops of Black Rose】

A vampire specially made spermicide. A medicine which cancels the propagative power of sperm.

Immediate effect. The effect lasts for three whole days.

Excellent product with no side effects. Men exclusive use.

"Fufufu~ how about that!"

“ ”

This woman... why is this the medicine of her choice!?

Does she not have anything better for compensation!

“...Why is it this medicine”

“My? You are aware of the effect of these medicines, aren’t you? Takumi-san is knowledgeable~ The ingredients used for these medicines are special, so they are very precious medicines!”

They are rare medicines without a doubt. Although it’s a kind of a medicine that is not particularly necessary... but, I’m already tired of accompanying Vivian as her tsukkomi companion, I just have to let her eat and think that I have obtained a valuable medicine...

“We are in the middle of the town, so I can take out only what I have”

“I don’t mind!”

When I took outa pre-made cooking from the <Infinite Storage>, Vivian immediately started eating on the spot.

“Ngu, mugu, ngu!”

“Speak after your mouth isn’t full!”

Vivian tried to talk with her mouth fully stuffed, so I stopped her with all my might.

“Allen, Elena. Talking with a mouth stuffed with food like that is bad, so be sure you two absolutely don’t do that, okay?”

““Yess~”“

I teach Allen and Elena while showing the bad sample.

“It’s delicious”

“Is that so?”

“Yes, seconds please”

“...”

Really shameless. But, if you compare the price of Vivian’s medicine and my cooking, I think the medicine would be far more expensive, so I decided to obediently take out the seconds.

“Ah, for a takeout too please”

“...Oy”

Vivian’s shamelessness exceeded boldness.

“Haa~ I’m full, I’m full~ I’m extremely satisfied~”

“...That so?”

“Yes! Ah, I will give you this as well~”

【Enerunrun♪】

A vampire specially made energy drink.

Five days worth of nourishment supplement.

Be careful not to overdose, okay♪

“...”

She took out something strange again...

Does that mean I won’t have to eat for five days if I drink this?

“If you take it now, I will present you a set of ten【Enerunrun♪】! Therefore, I request takeout food as well!”

““Enerunrun~?”“

“That’s right~ It’s something like a fruit water after which you won’t have to eat for a while. This is also my favorite article!”

It appears that Allen and Elena were attracted by its name.

““May drink~?”“

“Oh my? Would you like to try?”

“Oy, wait a moment! Vivian, don’t let them drink it without permission! Allen, Elena, if you drink that, you won’t be able to eat meals for a while!”

I stopped the three who wanted to drink[Enerunrun♪]in panic.

Hearing that they won’t be able to eat, Allen and Elena who were reaching for the bottles promptly withdrew their hands. But, Vivian was still pushing the bottles into the two’s hands, so I took the bottles from her hands.

I get annoyed just from thinking of getting on Vivian’s proposal, but honestly, this medicine, or rather, this nutrient seems like it could be useful, so I decided to take it and yield to her demands.

“How about this, is it enough?”

I retrieved Cream bread, Anpan, Curry bread, egg sandwich, and tuna sandwich from the <Infinite Storage> and showed it to Vivian. They are bread that has been sold only in Shirin and Bailey. The sandwiches most likely didn’t even appear on the market yet.

“Huh? Is this the jam bun that has been popular recently~?”

“No, it isn’t a jam bun. The filling is different. The shop that sells them has only two kinds at the moment, so it’s a pastry that the shops around here don’t sell yet”

“Ohh~! That is wonderful. Thank you very much~”

It seems the negotiations were somehow arranged.

“Rather, the medicine you always take out, is it made by you?”

“Huh? Did I say what race I was from?”

...Ah. If I know the medicine then I would know that it's vampire-made, but I have not heard from Vivian that she's a vampire yet.

“...You said it when we met before, didn't you~”

“Did I?”

Was that not enough to deceive her?

“That's right”

“N~ that may be true now that I think about it~? So, about this medicine, right? As Takumi-san said, this medicine was made by me~”

Ah, looks like she has been deceived.

“As I thought”

“Yes~ well, I might be irresponsible, but the effects of the medicines are perfect, so please be at ease”

“...”

No, that comment right now wasn't needed~

“Well then, thank you very much for today. I look forward to seeing you again”

...Again, she said.

Leaving worrisome words behind, Vivan gallantly departed.

“...Now then, Allen, Elena, thank you for waiting. What shall we eat?”

““N, you see~ I want that~”“

Pulling myself together, I decided to resume the stroll around town again.

Chapter 100

Raid on the Town

After picking up some light snack at a street stall, we returned to the inn before it got dark and had a dinner with Wald-sama and rest. At that time—

—*Doko—n!*

[Buhiiii]

Simultaneously with an explosive sound, some kind of beastly war cry resounded.

“W, what?”

“That just now was a monster’s cry, wasn’t it!?”

“I, It was nearby, right!?”

“This is the downtown! Why is a monster here!”

The store’s interior suddenly became noisy.

“I think the soldiers will intercept it, but... it would be better to check the state of the situation. Oswald, Mars, we are going!”

““Y, yes!””

Inside the noisy store, Isaac-san composedly gave instructions and rushed out of the store together with Oswald-san and Mars-kun. Only Wald-sama remained behind.

Is that it? Accompanying us because they are pretty much supposed to be our guards? Normal times in the downtown aside, he won’t leave us at such times?

““Monster~?””

“Looks like it”

“Allen will defeat~”

“Elena too~”

“Even without Allen and Elena defeating it, the soldiers of this town will”

““Muu~~~”“

Hearing about a monster, Allen and Elena grew restless. It's because their turn didn't show up that much when monsters appeared on this journey. It seems they are itching to fight.

“Oy, oy... please stop rushing out on every occassion”

Hearing our conversation, Wald-sama said exhaustedly.

“Well~ I don't want us plunging into troubles on our own too, but...”

But you see~ because the inn is facing the main street, I can see people running as if escaping from west to the east. That's why I feel frustrated, just sitting without doing anything...

“Captain-!”

“Mars? Did you find out what happened?”

A short time later, Mars-kun returned. It seems he came to report the situation to Wald-sama.

“A swarm of Orcs appeared from the west. The exploding sound from a while ago was from a stone the Orcs threw at the wall. Vice-captain and Oswald-san went straight to the actual scene”

“...I see”

Orcs, huh... it seems it was from the west as I thought.

N~ Orc is a monster that can be defeated with two or three people of some skill, but...

“Is it fine for Wald-sama not to go?”

“It’s not like all of us can go and leave you guys behind. Since Isaac went there, I will stay here”

Ah, he remained behind as our guard as I thought.

“Well, the soldiers from various places will come together and divide between the subjugation force and the evacuation force. The Feudal Lord’s House’s knights should come out too. Besides... no, anyhow, there shouldn’t be any problem”

N? Right now, didn’t it feel like Wald-sama was avoiding the last line?

[Buhiiii—!]

At that moment, the Orcish shout resounded again. It was louder than the one before.

Immediately after that, Allen and Elena were pulling on my clothes.

“What’s the matter?”

““Onii~chan, let’s go~?”“

“...Let’s go you say, eh? To the west gate?”

““Un!”“

“...”

...Ahh, yeah, the two didn’t give up yet.

“Don’t go. You can’t”

““Muu~~~”“

Allen and Elena became sullen at Wald-sama’s cautioning.

““We goingmon!”“

As if to oppose Wald-sama, Allen and Elena vigorously stood up from their chars.

“Uwa! Allen, Elena!?”

I stood in panic and caught the two who were about to leave the inn.

““We going~~~”“

“Alright, I got it, okay?”

When I finally gave up because they wouldn't settle otherwise, the two became obedient.

I was honestly startled by the usually obedient two's unusual reaction. Is this supposed to be that? Getting stubborn after being oppressed. But, this might be a normal reaction for children. Allen and Elena have been way too obedient until now.

““Really~?”“

“Really”

“Oy, Takumi!”

“But Wald-sama, please think about it. Don't you think the damage would be larger if the two went on rampage like this?”

“...”

When I said such to Wald-sama who was objecting, he went silent. It appears that he understands how troublesome it would be if Allen and Elena were to rampage.

“Wald-sama, you are worried about it too, aren't you? Shall we go to the west gate?”

“...Can't be helped”

“Eh? Captain, is that alright!?”

“It's way better than them going on their own. Rather, I think Isaac already saw through this development. That's why he must have gone ahead to get the information. If not, he would normally stay here while we would be over there”

Wow. It looks like Wald-sama and Isaac-san decided on their roles with eye contact in that moment. What an amazing combination. But, because Wald-sama has reluctantly agreed, we decided to go to the west gate on a separate route to avoid the crowd.

“Huh?”

After arriving at the west gate and seeing the soldiers and adventurers coming in and out, I noticed a certain thing.

“Ah! Wald-sama, are adventurers called together in such cases too?”

“Yeah, that’s right. Different ranks are called depending on the situation. Takumi didn’t notice after all?”

Emergency call or something like that. Aren’t I in the targeted group too then?

Come to think of it, while explaining the actions of the soldiers, Wald-sama was evasive about his last sentence.

“Eh? Wouldn’t it be bad if I didn’t go during the emergency call?”

“Under normal circumstances. There’s no problem at the moment since you are with us”

“Is that so?”

“That is so”

I understand that Wald-sama and rest are moving under the King’s orders, so their priority is that, but am I also involved in it? I don’t understand well, but I will overlook it since it seems like there would be no penalty this time.

Also, I’m worried about the frequency, but I should keep emergency calls in mind.

“Oh, there he is ——Oy, Isaac”

“My, my, you arrived earlier than I expected”

“The pipsqueaks are more stubborn than you thought, Isaac!”

“Oh my, is that so?”

When Wald-sama said such, Isaac-san looked at Allen and Elena in my arms without getting surprised.

“Monster~”

“Will defeat~”

Allen and Elena who were stared at by Isaac-san cheerfully raised their fists. Then, Isaac-san made a consenting expression after hearing the two's words full of eagerness.

“So, what's the situation?”

“It's not that sweet”

When Wald-sama asked about the situation, Isaac-san's expression changed.

“Hahh? The opponents are Orcs, right? They might have numbers, but our higher war potential should manage, right?”

“That's... there's a superior species”

“What!? Superior species?”

“Yes. Its appearance has not been confirmed yet, but the Orcs' leadership is secured and their numbers aren't quite going down”

Superior species, huh. Something like this wouldn't happen if it was just a High Orc, so it must be something even above that. It must be either Orc General or Orc King.

“Who is in command here?”

“A person called Gregory, he's the Knight Captain of the Feudal Lord's House”

“Don't know him”

“Well, he's mainly serving the Feudal Lord after all”

“I see. Let's go see him first. Hey, Takumi. You are going too”

“...Roger”

It seems that Wald-sama wants to see the person in charge first, but... apparently

together with me.

Allen and Elena are itching to fight, but as expected it's not like I can release them into such chaos, so let's accompany Wald-sama here~

Chapter 101

Assembly

When we got out of the gate, I could see a group of orcs advancing towards the town and figures of soldiers and adventurers trying to block them. It appears that the strength of their forces is similar, they advance and retreat in turns. Isaac-san said the situation wasn't favorable, but the damages caused by the orcs seems to be low.

While glancing at the situation, I walked with Wald-sama and rest towards the knights—

““ <Water Jet> ””

“— Hey!!”

Allen and Elena suddenly fired magic towards the orcs.

The released magic flew towards an advancing orc who slipped through the defenses. It was rushing towards our direction and apparently entered the two's firing range. Moreover, the orc got blown backward and stopped moving. It seems they have brought it down properly.

I kept the two in my arms as a precaution of them rushing out, but I couldn't prevent their magic.

The attention completely gathered at us who were the source of the magic.

“Takumi, what are you doing!”

“No, no, that wasn't me!”

Wald-sama who walked in the front turned around in a panic. Rather, why is he getting angry at me?

“I know that! Watch the pipsqueaks properly!”

Ahh, so it's that. But you see~

"I'm preventing them from rushing out like this"

"..."

When I show Wald-sama how I'm holding Allen and Elena in my arms, he delicately turned away his gaze.

As expected, I can possibly take any further measures, right? As for the magic, isn't sealing their magical power the only thing left? Well, I have no intention of doing that though.

"Allen, Elena. You mustn't fire magic while people are around all of sudden like that. It would be dangerous if the people around got dragged into it, right?"

"Is fi~ne!"

While thinking of cautioning them first, the two proudly puffed out their chest in full confidence... fine you say, do you mean you won't involve others?

They certainly aimed at an orc that separated from its group, so it's not like they could damage the people in the vicinity. It's not an exaggeration to say that they brought it down safely.

"Still, you mustn't selfishly use magic at the moment"

"..."

When I told them that they can't use magic, the two made dissatisfied faces.

"...When there's a suitable time to use it, I will properly ask you. Okay?"

"...Yess~"

They were making too displeased faces, so when I told them that I will ask them when an opportunity arises, they were reluctant, but they agreed. I feel like if I don't proactively search for opportunities, they will later sulk~

"Did you finish persuading them? Rather, the pipsqueaks can use magic, I see. They

couldn't use it before, right?"

Wald-sama wondered about the children using magic.

Come to think of it, Allen and Elena learned magic after arriving to Bailey, so it's the first time he saw the children use magic.

"That's right, I taught them in Bailey, so..."

"Doesn't that mean that much time didn't pass since they learned magic! Magic of such power isn't something amateurs, much less children can do. You guys, stay out of the norm moderately please!"

For some reason, Wald-sama entered lecturing mode. Stay out of the norm moderately, he said... even if you tell me that~

However, it's not like they went all out...

"Wald-sama, leave it at that. The people over there noticed our presence because of the children's magic, so let's head there"

"...Let's do that"

When I looked at the direction Isaac-san was talking about, I saw a group of splendidly armored people staring at us.

Yeah, is that the group of the commander Wald-sama wanted to meet?

"Risner-dono, these people are?"

When we approached, they asked Isaac-san whom they have already met before.

"My superior and our companion adventurer"

"I'm Grunwald Ruven. You might have heard from Isaac here already, but we are on the way to the capital and stopped by the town today. It's a state of emergency, so we came to cooperate"

"Thank you very much for your assistance. I'm Gregory Valgan. Without a delay, Ruven-dono. The magic that sent the orc from just a while ago flying, it seemed to

belong to these children, but... just what are they..."

When Wald-sama and Valgan-san finished introducing themselves, Valgan-san immediately asked about Allen and Elena. Well, it's only natural to be curious about that~

"...Ahh, that's... yeah"

"I'm adventurer called Takumi. These children are my younger siblings"

"Those children are adventurers too, but he as their elder brother is outside the norm—no, rather, he's a nonsensical human being, so you just have to think that the children got influenced by him"

"Wald-sama!? That way of speaking is way too rude!"

I introduced myself to Valgan-san just in case and left the rest to Wald-sama, but his words shocked me.

I recognize that I'm slightly unordinary, but nonsensical... isn't that too cruel?

"Didn't I just say the truth!"

"No, no, no! You could have said it differently!"

"I don't have the time to explain it nicely at the moment!"

"That's true, but!"

"It has been established that it's impossible for you guys to not stand out. It would be wasteful to try patching up things after you, don't you think!"

"..."

...Allen and Elena are already guilty of that, so I'm not able to deny that. I can't deny that, but~

"Valgan-dono, I can guarantee their ability"

"I, I see..."

...It didn't feel like it was forced at all.

I had no choice but to crestfallenly hang my head down without saying anything.

“Bumooooooooo---!!”

At that time, I heard a loud war cry, and an especially huge orc appeared.

—*noshi, noshi* its movements weren't that fast, but it has quite the coercing power.

“Tch! The general has come”

It's the superior species, Orc General.

“Valgan-dono, wouldn't it be better to withdraw the vanguard and rally up? At this rate, our numbers will gradually be reduced”

Because the Orc General appeared, the vigor of the nearby orcs grew.

The number of soldiers and adventurers that are being sent flying obviously increased.

“However, the orcs would then approach the town”

“It's fine. We have countermeasures”

Valgan-san was flustered, but Wald-sama confidently threw out his chest.

It appears that Wald-sama has a plan. I wonder what it is?

Chapter 102

Repel

“There, Takumi, pipsqueks, go wild as you please”

“Haa!?”

““Really?”“

“Yeah, it’s fine~”

““Yaay~”“

“No, no, no!”

Wald-sama suddenly said something that fanned the children’s flame.

“Wait, Wald-sama!? W, what are you saying!!”

Wald-sama’s plan, was it perhaps utilizing us?

In Wald-sama’s case, he seriously meant it!

“Hm? This is a way to keep the damage at the minimum and eliminate the monsters most quickly. Look, Takumi, I leave the big shot to you~”

“No, no, no! Knight-sama, do your job please!!”

“Of course, I will go out too. Ah, you can leave the clean-up to me too! Well, Isaac will be the one dealing with the processing though!”

I believe that Wald-sama is extremely serious.

“Is this not an abandonment of one’s duties!? Isaac-san!”

I tried seeking help from Isaac-san.

“Let’s see~ Well, rather than being guards, our duty is to follow Takumi-san who can act freely, so~ Wald-sama telling you to go to the front doesn’t really mean he’s abandoning his duties~”

“I have no allies!?”

Isaac-san also recommended Wald-sama’s approach. When I looked towards Oswald-san and Mars-kun, they were looking at me with sympathy...

““Onii~chan, let’s go~”“

Allen and Elena have been pulling on my clothes to go since a while ago.

“I understand, I understand~”

Complaining already won’t change anything at this time. It would be better to clean-up before the damages become large.

“Can you withdraw people away from the group of orcs?”

“Oh, you are ready to go? You mean to keep them away so they won’t get rolled up into it, right? —Valgan-dono, can you withdraw the soldiers?”

“Just what do you...”

A broad grin appeared on Wald-sama’s face as he begun negotiating with Valgan-san.

But, Valgan-san was confused.

“You have no choice but to believe me”

“...I understand”

Valgan-san seemed to make a decision and started giving instructions to the surroundings.

“Allen, Elena, we will reduce their numbers with magic first, okay?”

““Un!”“

After verifying that the front has moved away, I lowered Allen and Elena from my arms and prepared for the attack.

“Here I go~— **<Water Jet>**”

““ **<Water Jet>** ”“

With the people out of the way, the three of us fired magic at my signal.

The large amount of discharged water overwhelmed the orcs' momentum.

““““Wha!!”“““

I heard shocked voices from the surroundings.

“Ooh~ they got blown away fancily, didn't they?”

“What a great power”

“It was incredible the last time I saw it too, but this one was the more incredible~”

The admiration voices of Wald-sama and rest were audible.

“That being the case, we should go soon as well~”

“Let's do that. It doesn't seem necessary, but it's not like we can only watch. Oswald, Mars, we are going”

““Yes!”“

Wald-sama and rest took out their swords and moved towards the orcs.

“Ah, Allen too~”

“Elena is going too~”

Allen and Elena also broke into a run. I also took out my sword—[Water Katana]from the **<Infinite Storage>** and ran after them.

““Torya~”“

Allen and Elena jump kicked an orc with the momentum, used its chest as a stepping stone and jumped up.

““Yaa~!”“

Then, they attacked the heads of the orcs. Each bringing down an orc with the exact same moves.

“Ha!”

There was an orc who tried to swing down its club at Allen and Elena when they landed, so I cut it down with my katana.

“Next one~?”

“This way~!”

Allen and Elena identified their next prey and ran towards it without a hesitation.

““There~!”“

“Buhiiii-!”

“Oryaa---!”

“Haa~!”

“Buhiii-!”

Not only Allen and Elena, but seeing Wald-sama and rest smoothly defeating the orcs together with the soldiers and adventurers, the orcs' numbers quickly decreased.

“Bumooooooooo---!!”

Seeing its comrades being defeated one by one, the Orc General roared.

Glaring at its hateful enemies, the Orc General's coercion increased.

“Now then...”

Orc General is... B-rank, right?

Well, I don't think it's necessary to be so cautious, but... I don't know what it's capable of when enraged. Defeating it with magic and not allowing it to get close would be a valid strategy.

N~ Should I use fire magic I have not tried using before? But you see~ the Orc General's hide seems to be quite a good material and I heard that its flesh is also tastier than that of an orc, so it would be wasteful to just burn it.

...The Orc General doesn't really look appetizing, but I feel like eating pork fried with ginger for some reason.

"First... —— <Wind Arrow>"

"Bumoooooo!"

When I used a wind arrow as a test, the movements of the charging Orc General just slightly quivered. On the contrary, it got enraged even more.

"...Quite sturdy, isn't he? Then, next is— <Air Hammer>"

This time, I activated magic to smash the Orc General with air pressure from above.

"Bumoo!?"

The Orc General took a posture of lifting an invisible stone with both of its hands.

"Takumi, you seem to be taking it quite easy"

"“Onii~chan!”“

Just at that moment, Wald-sama and others who defeated the rest of the orcs joined up with me.

Allen and Elena who ran over as well clung to my legs.

"Taking it easy, is not quite right, that fellow is quite a tough one~"

I keep the Orc General under the air pressure so that he couldn't move, so it's not like

I'm taking it easy.

"Allen will defeat it~"

"Elena will defeat it too~"

Thinking this to be an opportunity to participate, Allen and Elena raised their hands and appealed to me.

"...Oh well. Shall we bring it down with magic at once?"

"“Yess~!”“

I know the magic power of these two is enormous, so it would be better to bring it down at once rather than uselessly prolonging it.

"Then, are you prepared?"

"“Un!”“

"Well then-- <Water Jet>"

"“ <Water Jet> ”“

"Also, a freebie! <Tornado>"

Invoking magic together with the children, I further mixed the water magic with wind magic.

When the vigorous whirlpool of water reached the Orc General—*dokan*, it made a loud noise upon impact.

"Bumooo-..."

The directly hit Orc General feebly collapsed to the ground.

"“Defeated~!”“

A lot of people were injured during today's orc raid, but luckily, there were no casualties. In addition, it ended with no damages to the town. After that, we began

cleaning up, but Isaac-san told me first with a very nice smile that the Orc General and several orcs should naturally belong to me, so I immediately stored them into my <Infinite Storage>.

After storing the orc materials—rather, their corpses in the <Infinite Storage>, I was told by Isaac-san "It's a nap-time for the children, isn't it?" next. Well, the day has certainly become pitch dark, so I agreed as it was without a doubt that time.

Then, I was half-forcedly returned to the inn with Oswald-san. Thinking that this is the "clean-up" Wald-sama was talking about, I obediently decided to return to the inn and rest.

Then the next morning when I awoke, Wald-sama and rest were also already back. Well, they went to report to the Alveil's Feudal Lord after cleaning up, so they seem to have just pulled an all-nighter.

After asking for details, the Feudal Lord apparently hoped to meet us. However, Wald-sama declined that after explaining that we are in the middle of a journey to the royal capital to meet with the King. The King is given the top priority after all. Wald-sama refusing in my stead was an excellent judgment. Rather, I wanted to say "Good job declining!".

Well, you know~ the reason the Feudal Lord wanted to meet with us was apparently either an invitation to serve him or get captured by him if unlucky. He must have heard the story from Valgan-san and that's why he wished to meet us.

Well, there's no positive proof though.

"Takumi, sorry about this but can we depart in the afternoon? Let me take a nap for a little"

"I don't mind leaving tomorrow?"

"No, I don't think there would be further troubles, but I want to depart quickly"

"I understand. We will obediently wait in the room, so please rest up"

"Ou, that would be nice. Your faces are probably well-known by now, so it would be better to not leave that much"

Wald-sama and others were working all night, so it wouldn't be good to depart right away, so we spent the morning leisurely in our room.

After that, we departed from Alveil in the afternoon, the journey went uneventfully, and we have safely arrived at the royal capital.

Chapter 103

Arrival at the Royal Capital

““Lots~”“

“Really. There’s a lot of people and carriages”

Arriving at the capital, we promptly got off the horses and approached the gate in order to get inside.

There was a long queue in order to get inside, but the knights and us as their fellow travelers went to the front of the queue without lining up, and were able to enter immediately after identification papers check.

I had the four animals return to my shadow as the number of people started increasing. I would like them to walk together with us, but it might become a problem in a place with tons of people after all~

““Oohh~”“

When we entered the town, Allen and Elena raised voices of astonishment.

I thought there were many people both in Shirin and Bailey, but as I thought, they can’t compare with the capital as it’s crowded with people.

“Allen, Elena, don’t separate from me~ We won’t be able to see each other if you get lost~”

““!!”“

The moment I somehow half seriously declared, Allen and Elena who were looking around the town with a great interest firmly stuck to my legs.

I won’t be able to move if they stuck to me this close. Moreover, we will obstruct the passersby. I lifted up the two in my arms in order not to lose sight of them.

“Sorry, sorry. I was lying. I will be able to properly find you even if you get lost”

““Uu~”“

Uwaa~~~ they have extremely teary eyes...

I did it now. I shouldn't joke in such way with Allen and Elena.

“Oy, Takumi. We should—Oh? Why do the pipsqueaks seem like they're about to cry?”

Just at that time, Wald-sama who finished with the procedures approached us and found the children's state strange.

“No... well, I joked around a bit you see...”

“N? You mean you made them cry? That's rare. What did you say?”

“That I won't be able to see each other if they get lost...”

“Ahh~ I see. So that's why the pipsqueaks are like that~”

“...Yes”

Wald-sama looked at the two who were clinging to me as if they were saying “I'm never letting go” with faces that were about to cry.

“Well, there are more people in the capital than anywhere else in the kingdom on top of being really difficult to go in and out~ but, don't worry! It's often the case that children who are not familiar with the geography of the town get lost and need to be searched for!”

Wald-sama said such with confidence, but... was that supposed to be a follow-up?

That's not a follow-up at all~~~

“Wald-sama, what are you doing fanning the children's insecurity?”

It's as Isaac-san said! The children seem like they'd burst into tears at any moment.

It appears that Isaac-san took on the role of scolding Wald-sama, so I decided to

follow-up with the children myself.

"Allen, Elena, it's all right. Look, shall we go like this for today? We will never separate from each other that way"

"...Un"

It was just feebly, but the two properly nodded, so I felt relieved.

Seriously... Losing sight, getting lost, I will be careful not to play that hand ever again.

"I'm sorry, Takumi-san. From here on out, Wald-sama will be accompanying you alone as we will go directly to the castle..."

As I was about to finish soothing Allen and Elena in my arms, Isaac-san who apparently finished scolding Wald-sama said to me worriedly while glancing at Wald-sama.

Hahaha~ It appears that we will say farewell to Isaac-san and rest here, but Isaac-san seems really worried to leave us in Wald-sama's care.

"Don't worry about it. Well, we will somehow manage even if we separate (from Wald-sama). I could look for a suitable inn or something"

"Haa? What are you saying?"

"Oh my? Takumi-san, did you not hear by any chance?"

"N?"

Even though the capital is vast, I will be able to find an inn with no guide. When I said such, Wald-sama and Isaac-san looked at me with strange faces.

"Your inn is my place"

"...Eh!?"

My place, he said... surely not, the Ruven House!? Ehh~!?

"Wait, I didn't hear anything about that though-!"

“Did I not tell you?”

That the place we will be staying at has been already decided... just when was it decided?

“I haven’t heard anything about that! We are fine with an inn”

“There’s no way I can let you stay there”

“...Is that no good?”

Indeed, we have been taken care of by the Risner House before, so I thought whether it will be the same in the capital, but~ I thought such but~ While staying at the Risner House, we weren’t really restricted and we have been taken care of really well, but you know. I feel much more comfortable at an inn.

“Did you perhaps want to stay at a guest room in the castle, Takumi-san? I believe you will be able to stay as the King’s guest of honor, would you like to request a stay?”

“No, I’m fine! It seems that we will be intruding to Wald-sama’s home, so there’s no need to stay at the castle!”

“Oh my, is that so?”

While I was hesitating to stay at the Ruven House, Isaac-san proposed to stay at the castle with a smile. I would like to refrain from that as much as possible, so I immediately refused.

Staying at the castle... I don’t want to do something so nerve wrecking willingly~

When I refused, Isaac-san made a really nice smile. Ku~~~

That’s right. Isaac-san knew that I would definitely choose the Ruven House over the castle, that’s why he made such proposal. Haa...

This is just how I feel, but if I said “Then, I will go with the castle” Isaac-san would definitely manage to let us stay in the castle.

Therefore, I mustn’t make a wrong choice here!

“Isaac-san, Oswald-san, Mars-kun. We have been in your care”

“No, no, it was us who were taken care of”

“That’s right. You made us delicious food, we have received precious herbs from you...”

“Uwa! That’s not good, is it? Somehow, even the monsters were defeated by Takumi-san’s contracted beasts... when I think about it, we haven’t done anything!”

When I regrouped my feelings and said goodbye to the three we will be separating from, the three recalled the happenings of the journey.

But well, it’s not like they haven’t done anything, it’s that we have come uninvited in various ways~

“Hahaha~ We have made the meals on our own and you can consider the herbs as wages for labor. Ah, I mean you don’t have to pay or anything, okay?”

“Well, I don’t think that much was enough, so if you have something you are troubled with, I will help you as much as possible so don’t hesitate to contact me anytime”

“I will cooperate if there’s something I might be useful for. Please, call out to me anytime”

“Me too!”

“Thank you very much”

Following Isaac-san, I have also received reliable words from Oswald-san and Mars-kun. During our stay in the capital, I will rely on them without reservation if something comes up.

...Well, I would prefer if such a situation didn’t occur though.

“Well then Allen-kun, Elena-san, we will meet again during the audience, but it’s farewell until then”

““Un, bye bye~”“

Taking Allen’s and Elena’s farewell as a signal, Isaac-san, Oswald-san, and Mars-kun

mounted their horses and departed.

“Well then, we should go as well. The day is still long, should I show you around the town on the way to my house?”

It has been decided that we will go to the Ruven House now, but Wald-sama decided to show us around the town on the way.

That proposal was honestly really good. The town is huge and I don't have the slightest idea what's where.

Unfortunately, the map function is blank just like when entering a dungeon, so I will be able to do a bit of mapping while being guided around.

“Hey, let's go then~”

“Thank you very much”

I'm carrying Allen and Elena in my arms, so Wald-sama started walking with the reins of two horses in his hands. I promptly followed after him and entered the town.

—In fact, at this time, I thought that I will just be taught the names of several main streets.

But, Wald-sama guided us around shopping areas and roads where carriages can turn around, he unexpectedly shown us some important places.

Chapter 104

Ruven House

We have arrived at the Ruven House at last.

“Welcome home, Bocchan”

When we entered the Ruven House following after Wald-sama, something shocking happened.

A man past his middle age wearing a tail coat with tightly combed down hair called Wald-sama “Bocchan” when greeting him. Bocchan! Wald-sama is Bocchan! T, that doesn’t suit him at all, does it~

“Oy, Ivan. Don’t I always tell you to stop calling me Bocchan?”

“To this Ivan, Bocchan has been Bocchan since you were a child. Rather than that Bocchan, would you please introduce our guests?”

Apparently, this man called Ivan is a veteran servant that has worked in this Ruven House since Wald-sama’s childhood.

“Yeah, sorry about that. Takumi, this is our butler Ivan. Ivan, this is Takumi who will be staying with us for a while and his little brother Allen and little sister Elena. I informed the old man about it, but”

“Yes, he has been asking for you. Takumi-sama, welcome. I’m a butler called Ivan. I will complete any requests you may have as soon as possible, so please, don’t hesitate to order me”

“I’m Takumi. I will be in your care for a while”

“Thank you for your politeness”

Ivan-san silently bowed once the introductions finished. I have been quite concerned about that, but Wald-sama who was ignorant of my feelings advanced the talk.

“So, what about the old man and Mother? They are home, right?”

“Yes. Dannasama is in his office, Okusama is in the salon”

“Let’s go meet the old man first. Takumi, follow me”

“Ah, yes. ——Allen, Elena, come”

““Yess~”“

After lightly bowing my head to Ivan-san, I briskly chased after Wald-sama. And so, we went towards the office of the head of the Count Ruven family—Wald-sama’s father.

When we arrived before the office, Wald-sama abruptly opened the door and walked inside.

“Oh, Wald, you have returned. Then, is that Takumi-kun?”

“P, pardon my intrustion”

“Welcome. Please come inside”

Wald-sama’s father was sitting at a desk dealing with some documents, but he put the documents on the desk when he saw me and hastily invited me inside.

“Make yourself comfortable. You can talk casually. My name is Matthias. I think you already know, but I’m this stupid son’s father”

“Thank you very much. I’m Takumi. These children are——”

“Allen!”

“Elena!”

After settling down on the sofa I was led to, we exchange greetings.

Whether it was because he’s Wald-sama’s relative, Allen and Elena gave their names cheerfully. It really was just their names, so I thought it might be a good time to step-up their game, so when I told them to attach “I am” next time——

“I am Allen!”

“I am Elena!”

The two introduced themselves on the spot once again. Matthias-sama who saw immediately addressed that.

“Children being lively is the most important. Think of my home as yours and spend your time here at ease”

“Thank you very much, Matthias-sama”

“N~ you are still a bit too stiff”

“Erm...”

The calm expression Matthias-sama had when he looked at Allen and Elena changed completely, turning into a dissatisfied one.

...But well, I remember having such an exchange before.

It was similar to the exchange I had with Cedric-san when I visited the Risner House for the first time. There's ninety percent chance that he didn't like the way I called him.

“Would it be all right to call you Matthias-san?”

“Yes, of course”

When I called him “Matthias-san” to confirm, Matthias-san immediately smiled.

As I thought, he was dissatisfied with the way I called him.

Rather, Matthias-san's smiling face— is exactly same as Wald-sama's, especially his eyes.

Matthias-san's bright brown leaf-colored eyes is completely different from Wald-sama's color, and he's the civil official type which is completely different from Wald-sama's knight type though.

“Oy, Takumi. Even though you won't stop attaching -sama to my name, why did you

changed the way you call my old man so easily!"

While feeling that those two are certainly a parent and a child, Wald-sama complained.

Wald-sama is apparently also dissatisfied with the way I call him. Well, Wald-sama did tell me to change how I call him when we reunited at Bailey~

"Well~... I got used to calling you Wald-sama..."

"Change it even if it's impossible"

"Ehh~"

"Change it!"

It finally turned into coercion... can't be helped.

"Wald? Wald-san? ——..... Wald-sama"

"Oy?"

"Hahaha~ No~ yeah, it's not possible"

"...Oy"

"I'm sorry~"

I tried but as expected... it doesn't fit him. Wald-sama is Wald-sama after all~

"You will get eventually used to it even when you change it forcibly. Rather, get used to it!"

"Eeh~"

Do I have to really change it? I think that's impossible for me though~

"...Kukuku~"

Seeing such exchange between Wald-sama and me, Matthias-san burst into laughter.

“It's good you have built such good relationship above all”

It seems that we appear to be on a good terms to Matthias-san.

Wald-sama clicked his tongue and averted his gaze in embarrassment.

“Now then, you must be tired from riding horses all the way here. There's still some time before dinner. You should rest at the salon”

Chapter 105

In the Salon

There was a woman with same color of hair and eyes as Wald-sama who was relaxing at the salon when we arrived.

Wald-sama is the second son so it's certain that he has an elder brother, but I wonder if he has a sister too?

“My, my, Wald-san, welcome home”

“Mother, I have returned”

...It appears that the woman was, in fact, Wald-sama's mother.

She's a youthful woman, she doesn't look at the age where could have given birth to Wald-sama at all.

“This must be Takumi-san. Welcome. My name is Rebecca”

“I'm Takumi. These children are Allen and Elena. We will be intruding for some time, Rebecca-sam... —n”

“Fufufu~”

Rebecca-san apparently also doesn't like to be called -sama.

The moment I was about to say “Rebecca-sama,” I was glared at very hard, so I changed it to “-san” at the last moment.

Wald-sama glared at me as well, but I ignored him and prompted Allen and Elena to greet Rebecca-san too.

“Allen and Elena, you should say your greetings too”

“I am Allen!”

“I am Elena!”

““Hello~”“

On the way from Matthias-san’s office to the salon, I taught the children to say “Hello” in addition to “I am”, so they were able to properly say their greetings.

Yeah, a good performance, a good performance~ To think the children who would hide behind me when greeting others would come this far, I’m so moved~

“Yes, hello. Fufufu~ What adorable children they are~ That’s right~ Please, call me Obaasama, okay?”

““Obaa~sama?”“

“Oh my! Very good~”

“...Mother”

It appears that Rebecca-san is a very playful person.

She’s pleased that Allen and Elena called her “Obaasama,” but wouldn’t you normally be happier if they called you “Oneesama”?

“After all~ I would like to get a grandchild soon~ Wald-san, have you still not found a bride?”

Ahh, I see. Rebecca-san wants a grandchild, huh.

“Please put your expectations on Elder brother who has a wife. They are newly-wed, so that day will come soon”

It seems like a child would be reliably conceived if the [Drops of Blue Rose] I received from Vivian were used, but... well, since they are newly-wed, they will be surely blessed with a child before long. If there are no signs after several years, I can just give it to them at that time, right?

“You are right. I will wait while taking care of these children until then~”

She decided to take care of Allen and Elena by herself.

Well, I would be thankful if she was affectionate to them. But even now they were clinging to my legs and watching Rebecca who was beckoning them to come over.

“My, my, it seems like more time is necessary before they get used to me”

“For sure. They are shy of strangers by nature. I’m sorry”

“How unfortunate. But, you will stay at our home for a while, they will gradually get used to me”

After that, we decided to have tea with Rebecca-san.

“Takumi, do you have “that”?”

“By “that”, you mean?”

“Ice cream. I want to eat that. Do you have some pre-made?”

“Ah, ice cream, is it? I have, but...”

While drinking the black tea that was served to me, Wald-sama suddenly said that he wants to eat ice cream.

It was a demand for ice cream, but I have some pre-made. When Wald-sama and rest were sleeping after pulling an all-nighter at Alveil, I was bored so I made ice cream with Allen and Elena in our room, so various kinds of ice cream are stored in my <Infinite Storage>.

“Give me”

“...”

It was quite a concise demand.

““Aisu~♪”“

“Allen will eat too~”

“Elena wants to eat too~”

At the critical moment, Allen and Elena took advantage of Wald-sama's request and raised their hands as well.

These two really like ice cream, don't they~

"It can't be helped, huh... I have milk flavor, milk flavor blended with finely crushed nuts, honey flavor, Ichi flavor, and Kahee flavor. Which would you like, Wald-sama?"

"Oh, the variety increased? Let's see~ Al—"

"Ah, I will say this first, but you can't get all"

When I asked what flavor he would like, it felt like Wald-sama would say all of them, so I conveyed to him that he can't get all flavors before it was too late.

"What!? I can't?"

...He really was going to ask for all.

"It's just before dinner, you know? Besides, the children will get an upset stomach if they eat a lot of cold things. Allen and Elena will endure with one flavor, but are you really going to eat all of them in front of them?"

"...Ou, sorry. I would like the Kahee flavored one"

"Roger"

When I explained that he can't get all, Wald-sama obediently chose the Kahee flavored ice cream.

Well, his disappointment is very clear to understand. Let's see~ Another flavor... let's give him one milk flavored with nuts too.

"Allen, Elena, what would you like~?"

"Allen, honey~"

"Elena, I~chi~"

Allen and Elena want honey and Ichi, huh~ It would be unfair if only Wald-sama got

two kinds, so let's give the two a bigger serving of the flavors they chose~

“Say, what is this ice cream? Won't you explain to me?”

“It's a cold sweet dessert. Would you like to try it as well, Rebecca-san?”

“My, is that fine? Then, could I have Takumi-san's recommendation?”

“Yes, I understand”

Since it's Rebecca-san's first time eating ice cream, let's go with the common milk flavor and Ichi flavor that women seem would like.

I immediately retrieved ice cream from the <Infinite Storage>, and scooped the two flavors into a bowl. I need that thing. The clickety-click... thing for scooping out ice cream. Would a blacksmith understand if I explained it a bit? Let's confirm before long.

“Thank you for waiting”

““Yay~”“

The four promptly begin eating the ice cream.

“It's my first time eating, but it's very delicious”

It suited Rebecca-san's tastes and she ate very elegantly, but her pace was quick.

“Our chefs have to quickly learn how to make this”

“My, Wald-san. Have it been decided that Takumi-san will teach you how?”

“Rather than teaching me, he has already given me the recipe”

“Oh my, really? That is delightful, but Takumi-san, is that really fine? Wald-san didn't extort you, did he?”

Eh? E, extort she says... Rebecca-san, do you believe that your own son would do something like that?

“I, it's fine. Besides the Ruven House, I gave the ice cream recipe to three other noble

houses. But well, I only taught them the milk flavored recipe. I have decided that each house should come up with their own flavors”

“Oh my, is that so? That’s good then, but... since this is something I haven’t eaten nor heard about before, isn’t this Takumi-san’s invention?”

“You could say that...?”

To be accurate, that’s wrong~ What is this... is it a mistake to bring such things into this world?

“But, I have no intention of hiding it, rather, it would be more convenient if it spread around”

Hiding it would be inviting trouble after all~ I would like to avoid that.

Moreover, I would like to eat ice cream anywhere. But well, it’s not like the act of freezing can be done everywhere in this world, so it might be impossible after all.

“My, is that so? Then, would it be all right for me to introduce it at an open tea party?”

“Yes, I don’t mind. But, I would like to refrain from proactive guidance”

“Yes, yes. We will have our chefs do their best. Oh dear, I somehow got very excited. Takumi-san, you will instruct them on the milk flavored one, right? After they are able to do that, I will have them do their best at this Ichi ice cream!”

“The Kahee flavored one was a bit bitter, but it worked as it was tasty”

“That also sounds tasty, doesn’t it? In that case, we will have to do our best at the Kahee one too~ Fufu, how fun~”

Rebecca-san and Wald-san got excited while discussing what flavors of ice cream the chefs should make for a while.

While listening and drinking my tea, a messenger arrived as the schedule for the audience with the King has been decided.

Surprisingly! The audience seems to be scheduled for tomorrow.

Chapter 106

Audience

And, the next day.

“Well then, Takumi-san, shall we go?”

Isaac-san whom I will have the audience together with is not wearing his regular knight uniform, noble-like clothes. Well, we also aren't wearing our usual casual clothes, but considerably high-class clothes.

I didn't think about the clothes to wear during the audience, but Cedric-san contacted Matthias-san beforehand, so the clothes were already prepared when we arrived at the Ruven House. Our physiques have been told to a clothing store which prepared several outfits, so we hurriedly tried them on after the messenger arrived. And finally, we did last-minute adjustments to the outfits we thought were the best.

Although overwhelmed, we were dressed nicely in no time.

I'm wearing black slacks and white shirt, a dark gray long jacket on top. Allen has a frilly white shirt and a navy blue shorts with suspenders. Elena is dressed in an embroidered pink dress with frills.

Wearing outfits that were tailored to fit us perfectly, we boarded the carriage.

““Amazing~”“

“Isn't it? Looking at it from up close, it looks even more amazing~”

We looked out of the carriage's window while gradually approaching the castle.

I have seen a few Japanese castles, but it's my first time seeing a western style castle. It had a solemn atmosphere from afar, but it's a masterpiece when seen from up close.

There seem to be various procedures to enter the castle, but everything was left to Isaac-san, so we kept advancing.

“This is it. As for the manners, it should be fine if you follow my movements”

“I understand. Allen, Elena, you have to be quiet when inside, okay?”

““Yess~”“

The room we entered was a large hall made of stone with a deep crimson carpet layed out on the floor and I caught a sight of extravagant chairs in the most elevated place. One noticeably more gorgeous in the center, with slightly smaller chairs on both sides. The chair in the center is most likely the King’s, while the ones on the side are the queen’s and/or prince’s. This certainly has the feel of an “audience hall” to it.

There are a few people that I think are noblemen and knight guards in the hall, but... the eyes of those people are examining us without holding back. It’s a very unpleasant atmosphere.

Because of this atmosphere, Allen and Elena are thoroughly glued to me. I pat the two’s heads in comfort. I seem to be tense to some extent too, so they became my anxiety medicine as well.

“His Majesty is arriving”

After a short time, one of the knights conveyed such words, making Isaac-san and other people fall to their knees in a respectful bow. Following Isaac-san, I dropped to one knee and lowered my head. Allen and Elena imitated me and make the same posture, although a bit clumsy. Well, it doesn’t change the fact that they are glued to me.

Elena—what do girls do again in this situation? A lady’s bow... courtesy? Or was it curtsy?

Pulling one leg back, pinching the skirt and bowing? I think that should be it, but... oh well. They wouldn’t blame me for this, would they?

“Good. Lift your heads and make yourself comfortable”

I heard the footsteps of several people, and when they stopped just in front, a voice resounded around the hall.

When I lifted my head in accordance to those words, I saw a man in his forties with

bright blonde hair wrapped in luxurious clothes.

Royalty = beauty seems to hold true as the man in front of me was a handsome middle-aged man. I'm sure he was popular with women in his youth.

Both chairs at the King's sides were empty, but one man was standing beside the King. It was a middle-aged man with a seemingly strict atmosphere, a grizzled blonde hair swept back, dressed in all black with sharp eyes and glasses. If we go with the pattern, he would probably be a prime minister or something.

"Hmm. So you are the adventurer who discovered the dungeon in Bailey. Excuse me for summoning you all of sudden. I'm the King of the Guardia, Tristan"

"I'm serving as the prime minister, my name is Ford"

The King addressed me in a very amicable manner. He seems like a very gentle person, but as a King of a country, I'm sure he's not simply a gentle character~

When the King finished speaking, the man who stood at his side introduced himself. It seems he's the prime minister just as I thought.

"It's an honor to meet you. I'm Takumi, an adventurer. These children are Allen and Elena"

"...Uniyu~"

"Ah... I'm sorry about this"

When I introduced the children after introducing myself, Allen and Elena suddenly hid behind my back. N~ With so many gazes on them, they aren't able to do the greetings like they did with Rebecca-san, huh~ Well, there's nothing I can do about that.

"Kuku. It's fine. I won't get upset at the young"

"Thank you for your generosity"

The King smiled warmly without blaming the children's actions. When he makes such an expression, he looks even easier to talk with.

It really helps that he's tolerant towards the children, but... but you see~ it's not like

I'm able to hold a proper conversation either. Speaking with "desu""masu" is my limit. I don't know the proper etiquette when speaking with a King~ Well, he's aware that I'm just an adventurer, so I would want him to forgive me to a certain degree.

"I would like to reward you at once, but I have to speak with Risner first. Wait a moment please"

"Yes"

When I acknowledged, the King's gaze fell upon Isaac-san who was next to me.

"Good work. You are one of the knights if I'm not mistaken?"

"He's of the Royal Guards, isn't he?"

Eh? Isaac-san was a Royal Guard? I, I didn't know...

Surprised by the prime minister's words, I turned my head towards Isaac-san without thinking.

That reminds me, I didn't hear the reason why Isaac-san was transferred from Shirin to the Royal Capital~ Hee~ So he became a Royal Guard. Royal Guard basically means the elite, right? That's amazing.

N? Wald-sama is in the hall as a guard too, but the color of the uniform he's wearing changed from dark blue to white. Because the knights I saw on the way and the knights at the door were wearing the familiar dark blue uniforms it doesn't seem that the knights on the castle duty wear white uniforms...

Then, are those in white uniforms the Royal Guards...? Ehh!? Then, Wald-sama became a Royal Guard too?

Should we celebrate their promotion? N~ Let's consult Matthias-san and Rebecca-san when this is over.

"Yes. I have become one of the Royal Guards the other day, my name is Isaac Risner. Originally, my elder brother who is the Risner Feudal Lord should have come, but I came in his place. First of all, I apologize in the Feudal Lord's stead for he couldn't come personally"

“It’s absolutely necessary to settle down the newly discovered dungeon in the Risner territory as soon as possible. It would be foolish for the feudal lord Count Risner to leave his territory at this important time. Don’t mind it”

While I was deep in thoughts, the conversation between the King and Isaac-san advanced.

Isaac-san has gotten permission to come in Cedric-san’s stead prior to his visit, but this exchange is apparently necessary for the other nobles to hear.

When the typical greetings finished, Isaac-san reported about the Dungeon of Ripples, including the information he obtained beforehand. Well, this was also to inform the people gathered in the hall.

“Continue working hard for the country in the future”

“Yes, I’m willing to serve”

“Hmm. Takumi-dono, sorry to keep you waiting. Well then, shall we talk about the rewards?”

The report ended with truly harmless and bland information.

And then, we moved to talk about our rewards.

Chapter 107

A Concerning Gaze

“Before that Your Majesty, I have something I would like to ask if you allow it”

“Fumu, I don’t mind. What is it?”

With His Majesty’s permission, I decided to confirm what was on my mind all this time.

“Erm... do you have some other guards besides those standing near the walls, I wonder? There are several people in hiding who are watching us, though?”

“What? Is that the truth!?”

Huh? His Majesty appears to be shocked?

I looked at the prime minister because of His Majesty’s panicked state, but he also appears to be unaware as he was shaking his head.

“Takumi-dono, is what you said just now the truth? Is it not just your misunderstanding?”

The prime minister seems to think that it was just my imagination.

“That’s unlikely”

From the looks of the two, it doesn’t seem like the two are just trying to distract me from the existences within the shadows... n~ If they are not His Majesty’s pieces, then spies?

Ah but, they might not be foreign spies, but spies of this country’s nobles?

“There~”

“Over there too~”

“Ah... yeah, that’s right”

Allen and Elena have naturally noticed the existences within the shadows. They are pointing with their fingers at them...

First of all, I pat the two's heads and lower their pointing hands.

The people within the shadows showed some movements when the two pointed at them with their fingers, but... they didn't leave. Their locations were accurately pinpointed, but are they thinking it will be all right because it was kids who did it?

I don't know when they will escape so I kneaded my magical power into the wind and sent it towards them so I could restrict them anytime. Now then, what are we going to do from here on?

“...It wouldn't be good to leave them as they are, right?”

“Takumi-san, would you be able to capture them? We don't know whose subordinates they are, so I would like to ask if you could capture them without killing if possible”

When I asked Isaac-san who was next to me in a low voice, he requested me to capture them alive.

“Well, there's only three so I will manage somehow”

I entwine the wind I sent in around the targets and restrict them in order to prevent their escape.

“Umm... Wald-sama, there's one on the left behind His Majesty, can I leave it to you?”

“...Oh, I see. Leave it to me”

The restriction was a success, but because he was on the platform and right behind His Majesty at that, I couldn't possibly capture that person myself, so I asked Wald-sama to capture him.

Wald-sama explained only simply, but he still received His Majesty's permission, so he moved into action.

“Your Majesty, Prime Minister, someone is certainly here”

“Guh”

Wald-sama dragged along a person who was completely dressed in black. His consciousness doesn't seem to have completely recovered, so he let out a groan when Wald-sama constricted him.

"To truly be there..."

Understanding that it was the truth that people were lurking around, shocked voices leaked from the surroundings.

"There are two more in the ceiling, but... from where can you enter above the ceiling?"

"Is it safe to go secure those people?"

"Yes, they have been restricted with magic so they can't escape, but it should be fine if you take into consideration that they are still conscious..."

"I understand"

The prime minister quickly gave instructions and the knights went to capture the men in black.

Because this and that, the hall was in an uproar for a while. I think it's because we have shown our abilities in such a weird place, but there are more gazes on us now than when we entered.

The spies didn't show any bloodthirst, so they must have been there to gather intelligence. That's why it might have been fine to leave them alone, but I couldn't help but be concerned about the hidden gazes~

I would rather be surrounded by the gazes of the people in the hall. Is what I thought, but... as I thought, those are also annoying in their own way~

"Your Majesty, Prime Minister, we have safely captured them"

"Good work"

A short time later, the Knights came back with the two restricted men. It seems the men above the ceiling were safely captured.

"So they also were in there"

“...It appears that way”

His Majesty and the prime minister let out sighs.

“Takumi-dono, sorry for the trouble”

“Forgive us for doubting you”

“Ah, no. I have said something so abrupt all of sudden, so I believe your judgment was inevitable”

I got apologized to. They are people of great status, but they are not haughty at all. Generally, someone of their status would definitely be doubtful of everything. Well~ they give off a good feeling~

“I’m thankful you said so”

“At any rate, Takumi-dono. It appears that you are used to dealing with people who lurk in the shadows”

Ah~ they would ask about that after all~

“I was able to distinguish their presences”

“Presences, huh... that’s incredible”

“I see. As expected of a high-ranked adventurer”

His Majesty and the prime minister seem to have quickly accepted it. But, at that time--

“Your Majesty! To distinguish the presences of those hidden in the shadows, that is by no means possible! That person is surely lying! He surely discovered the spies he prepared himself to do a meritorious deed in front of His Majesty!”

“...”

A short and stout man stepped forward and started criticizing me.

Lying, he said... how rude~ I have skills like 【Presence Detection】 and 【Detection】

, so I'm able to completely deny his accusations...

"Count Tugal, you mustn't say something like that without evidence"

"Indeed. I don't think it's a good idea to decide that by yourself"

The short and stout man is apparently a count. Unexpectedly a high-ranked noble. Rather, aren't most of the nobles here high-ranked?

Still... he's accusing me of performing a part in my own play to do a meritorious deed, but I, unfortunately, don't have any motive for that. As of now, I don't think of buttering up the country or His Majesty.

In the first place, isn't there a considerable amount of risk by catching your own spies?

There is nobody who would accept a job on the assumption that he will get caught and had to become a sacrificial pawn in silence. Well, "Anything for my Master!" subordinates exist, so it's quite possible, but still... he's currently suspicious that I'm playing a part in my own play, so this is unrelated at the moment.

Rather, in this case, the person who tries to accuse others is more suspicious. I mean—

"Isn't it almost as if his spies got caught, so he's hurrying to place the crime on others?"

When I absentmindedly whisper, the surrounding gazes focus on me for a moment and then all move at Count Tugal.

I intended to say it in a low voice, but the audience hall was silent, so it resounded rather well.

"I, it isn't me!!"

"...Count Tugal?"

"T, that's a false accusation!!"

Count Tugal started panicking when all of the gazes gathered at him and begun insisting on his innocence. Nobody said anything, though...

“Eh, Your Majesty!”

Count Tugal desperately appealed to His Majesty, but this desperation made him seem even more suspicious.

“Your Majesty, it would be all right to interrogate the captured people in detail, yes?”

“Yes. Take those guys with you and investigate their backgrounds”

“Ha”

His Majesty nodded to the prime minister’s words and the Knights took the three restricted men out of the audience hall.

“Count Tugal, take the responsibility of carelessly causing a disturbance in this place and leave for today”

“...!!”

With His Majesty’s order, Count Tugal unwillingly left the hall. I felt that he glared at me for a moment when he was leaving... it would be nice if we didn’t get dragged into something troublesome later, but...

Chapter 108

Reward

“I intended to reward you for discovering a dungeon, but... you have participated in arresting an illegal merchant in the Gaya Forest. And now you have apprehended spies. We have to increase the rewards, don’t we...”

“That seems to be the case”

“Money won’t be enough for this... fumu, what do we do?”

“...”

As Count Tugal said, the discovery of spies has become my meritorious deed. They, therefore, intend to add to the reward they planned to give me, but... they really don’t have to~ I mean, I pointed those fellows out because their gazes annoyed me.

But, because it’s not like I can speak honestly here, I decided to wait in silence for the things to take its own course.

“Takumi-dono, how about it? Is there something you desire?”

“...No, nothing in particular”

Just when I was going to carry through the indifference, His Majesty addressed me.

Something I desire, huh... nothing that I would require from the country floats on my mind... or does it?

“...Ah!”

No, it’s not limited to “things”!

“It appears you came up with something. Speak”

“Is that all right?”

"I don't mind. I won't know if I can grant it to you until I hear what you have to say. However, I will remind you that impossible things are impossible"

Well, that is a just reasoning. I'm not trusted enough to the extent where they would immediately agree to my reckless demands. It would be better if you have said that from the beginning, that would be easier for me as well. Let's give it a try and ask since there's nothing to lose~

"In that case, would it be possible for me to request an authorization to decline an employment invitation from the nobility and answer to those with forcible measures in the same way?"

It would be bothersome if I was told "What do you think you are to decline a nobility's request!" or "Disrespectful!" when declining an invitation. If possible, I would like a definite permission to counterattack if the opponent starts a fight too, but... if the counterattack would be considered a legitimate self-defense, it will be easier to settle the matter afterward.

If this request gets accepted, avoiding trouble in the future would be slightly easier.

"Fumu... I see. That is indeed a necessary thing. Let's see... first of all, let's make both the Risner and Ruven families your guardianship. Both sides don't mind, do you?"

"Matthias Ruven complies"

"Risner House as well"

"...Eh?"

"Are you dissatisfied?"

"N, No! Not at all"

...Huhh? Why did it turn into such a serious matter?

I thought he would tell me "Approved" or "Aye, alright" if he accepted my request, but he made the Ruven House and Risner House officially our guardianship for some reason. Well~ we get along with both families, but you see... mmm~... that was really unexpected.

"The two might be only of a count rank, but it's better than entrusting you to a stranger, right? Also, let's see... Ruven House and Risner House, I give you the authority of the rank next to the Royal Family for Takumi-dono related matters. I don't want to think that those above the rank of count would cause trouble, but just in case. With Count Risner being currently in his fief, I will entrust the full rights to Count Ruven for now. Keep that in mind"

"Certainly"

The authority of the rank next to the Royal Family means that even the opponents from the Ducal and Marquis houses would be silenced.

Still... I can't keep up with this dizzyingly advancing talk. While feeling a bit shook up, Isaac-san patted my shoulder.

"It will be fine, Takumi-san"

"Hee?"

"Nothing much will change"

"Yes?"

"It's only that what my Elder brother did for you in Bailey, he now can do throughout the entire country"

"...Haha"

Is this a good thing... I wonder? No, it's a good thing?

Yeah, I'm at loss just by minding it. Let's just obediently accept it as if the annoying things in Guardia decreased.

"However... that's still not enough... right, I will let you take one thing of your liking from the treasury. Well, except the objects we consider national treasures"

The surroundings became noisy with His Majesty's words.

Next seems to be an item from the treasury. Errmm... it should have ended with my request, though~

I mean, the authority next to the Royal Family, there was some noise because of those words, but a noise that can't even be compared to that is happening. That means the treasury might have some considerably incredible items. Wow~ it seems like receiving something from there would cause a backlash.

"There are many armors, jewels and magic tools in the treasury. There should be something that would be to Takumi-dono's liking"

"Eh, Your Majesty! Isn't it a bit too much to give a reward from the treasury just for a dungeon discovery and the meritorious deed from a little while ago?"

Even if I don't take anything, I would like to check what magic tools they have~ while carefreely thinking such, one of the noblemen raised his voice in objection. Then, other voices rose to follow after the first one.

Hmm~ as I thought, would it be better not to receive it?

"Did you not hear my words? His achievements are not only that"

"We heard. However!"

"A compensation for A-rank Evil Viper subjugation, isn't one or two items from the treasury cheap?"

"Wha! Evil Viper!!"

I could hear "Town of Shirin" or "The origin of the Evil Viper material flowing through the market" whispers from the surroundings. Apparently, even though they were able to grasp the information of Evil Viper material flowing through the market, they weren't able to track it back to me.

"Even though the place of the encounter was the Gaya Forest, it's next by our country's side. If not for Takumi-dono subjugating the Evil Viper, the knights who were sent on the expedition to the Gaya Forest would be annihilated. That would cause a serious damage to our country"

"T, that's..."

Not being able to argue against His Majesty's explanation, the noble raised a groaning voice.

“Well then, it’s decided. —Prime Minister”

“Yes. I will prepare a list later on and Takumi-dono will choose from among that, would that be all right with you?”

“Takumi-dono, you don’t mind, do you?”

“N, no”

...I lost the timing to refuse.

Well, since the opposition from the surroundings decreased, would it be safe to accept?

“Takumi-dono, I have troubled you on this occasion. You will be receiving your reward in another room after this”

“Thank you very much”

When I lowered my head to express gratitude, His Majesty left the hall.

With this, the audience came to an end. I’m glad it ended safely(?).

Chapter 109

Unofficial Place

The moment we left the audience hall, we were taken to some private room. After waiting there together with Isaac-san for a while, His Majesty and the prime minister who finished the audience a moment ago entered with a few knight guards. I have tried to stand up from the chair in a hurry, but I timidly sat back when His Majesty signaled me with his hand.

“There are no unnecessary eyes in here, so you can act as usual without worries. If you have something to say then say it without holding back”

“Thank you very much, Your Majesty”

“Fumu. This is not an official occasion, so I won’t mind if you call me Tristan”

“U, umm... Your Majesty Tristan?”

When His Majesty sat facing me, his first words were about my attitude. Act as usual he said, even though this person is the head of a country... is that fine? Moreover, I received permission to call him by name.

His Majesty’s gaze was saying “give it a try” and when I tried, an obvious frown formed on his face... it seems he didn’t like it.

“...Tristan-sama”

“Umu”

When I tried calling him again without using his title, his frown faded away in satisfaction.

What to say... there are many friendly people among the Guardia country’s royalty and nobility? All the people I became friendly with wanted me to call them by their names... No, there are people like Baron Gilbert who caused trouble in Shirin and Count Tugal, so it’s most likely just a coincidence.

“Conrad”

“Yes. Well then, Takumi-dono. First of all, please accept this”

“Who?” Is what I thought when Tristan-sama called the unfamiliar name, but it seems he was addressing the prime minister. Come to think of it, Ford must be his house’s name. Conrad must be his first name.

When the prime minister gave instructions to a knight holding a leather bag, *gashari*, such metallic noise resounded the moment he placed it on top of the table. It appears to be money, but there seems to be considerably a lot as the noise was quite loud.

“...Isn’t there too many?”

There should be a considerable amount even if it was in gold coins... there definitely aren’t large gold coins or platinum coins inside... are they? I’m afraid to look.

“It’s a proper amount. Receive it without reserve”

Even if you say that, it’s not like I can receive it without reserve.

I turned my gaze towards Isaac-san to seek help, but Isaac-san disappeared from the place he was supposed to be at. He apparently moved to stay behind me in a casual manner when Tristan-sama and others entered.

“...When did you move away?”

I seriously didn’t notice. I have thought so before, but... does the Risner House has a **【Stealth】** skill that can’t be detected with my **【Appraisal】** ?

Well, Tristan-sama and others who entered were on my mind while last time I was absorbed in thinking about curry so that might be it, but~

“Rather than that, Takumi-dono. It’s His Majesty’s kindness, receive it gratefully”

“...Yes”

I couldn’t expect a help, so after thanking Tristan-sama and the prime minister once more, I put the leather bag on my person.

“Then, please receive this as well”

When I was about to confirm the money I received, the prime minister presented a palm-sized box next.

“Erm... this is?”

“This is a medal of honor”

“T, thank you very much”

When I open the box and look inside, there was a platinum-colored medal.

It was about the size of the bottom of a juice can.

The pattern was of a lion which symbolizes the Guardia country. On the back, there were engraved accomplished exploits(?), dates, and name. The discovery of a dungeon was engraved on the back in my case.

Apparently, those who subjugate a dragon which attacked a town, or a person who saved many people with their healing, etc. receive such medal from the country. Being able to receive this medal is apparently a very honorable thing.

“And this would be the storage list of the treasury”

When thinking it was finally over, I was handed over the treasury's catalog.

“Although this is the storage list, it can't be taken out of the castle, so you have to either decide here or it will be prepared ahead of time on your next visit”

N~ there are many items on the list that was handed to me, so it's difficult to decide just by skimming through. I might as well decide after a careful consideration.

However, Tristan-sama surely isn't so free to wait on me until I decide, so would it be better to decide at a later date~?

“I'm sorry. It would take time to confirm what's what, so it would be difficult to decide right away”

“Then, you don't mind leaving this for later?”

“Yes. Let’s do that”

I returned the list for now.

“Fumu. Although on hold, all rewards have been handed over”

“Yes, thank you very much. Then, is it all right for me to go next? Originally, I planned to send a word first, but I wanted to bring it and hand it over personally since it’s an article of the dungeon...”

“Ohh, I’m grateful for that. Let’s take a look at once”

I didn’t think I could meet His Majesty in a private place like this, so I thought of having the item prepared by the official castle staff or ultimately by Isaac-san. But, when I brought up the subject because there was an opportunity to hand it over directly, Tristan-sama cheerfully accepted.

“This is it. Please, take a look”

I have taken out the bottled brandy from my <Infinite Storage> at once. For now, it’s one of the several bottles. I can’t display several bottles in here.

“What is it?”

“It’s alcohol called brandy”

“Hou, alcohol? It’s my first time hearing about alcohol with such name”

Tristan-sama must like alcohol as he looked at the bottle with great interest. But, at that time—

““That, it’s not delish~”“

“Eh? You guys-!?”

“N?”

Allen and Elena made an unthinkable remark while pointing at the bottle I took out.

Since brandy is alcohol it certainly didn’t suit the two’s tastes, but I would like them to

stop making such remarks in a place like this... Tristan-sama is looking at the children with a wondering face.

“...I, I’m sorry. Actually, there was an incident where the two tasted the alcohol when I took my eyes off of them... umm, it’s a considerably strong alcohol, so it didn’t suit the children’s taste... anyhow, its taste has been guaranteed”

I followed up the children’s words in panic.

I wouldn’t want His Majesty to think that I offered him something unappetizing after all!

“Ah, I see. Weak fruit wine aside, strong alcohol wouldn’t suit a child’s taste. Haha, so that’s why they made such statement”

Tristan-sama seemed to understand my explanation, so I was able to avoid a strange misunderstanding.

“So, is one of the Risner’s who guaranteed the taste?”

“Umm...”

“Yes, my elder brother tasted it beforehand and judged it wasn’t be lacking to be presented to His Majesty”

Isaac-san replied before me.

“Hou... I’m looking forward to tasting it. Conrad, how about giving it a try with me tonight?”

“It seems to be precious, would that be all right?”

“Ah, I have prepared several bottles, so you can store it in a proper place later”

“Is what he said”

“Then, I will accept and partake”

It appears that Tristan-sama and the prime minister decided to drink tonight. I hope it will suit their tastes.

“Allen wants to eat cream bread~”

“Elena wants Anpan~”

Allen and Elena suddenly demanded snacks.

Because Tristan-sama and others throw off their strict auras, the two children's normal mood returned.

“Cream bread? And Anpan? What is that? Judging by their names, they seem to be pastry, but...”

Tristan-sama reacted to Allen's and Elena's words again.

“Ah~ you see... ——”

Tristan-sama said he would like to eat them when I explained what they are, so we had a pastry-tea time for some reason. Tristan-sama was very pleased with the pastry to a point of blank amazement, so I decided to teach the castle's chefs.

...I thought that there won't be many opportunities to visit the castle again, but I seem to have made a few chances for a visit.

Chapter 110

Coats

The audience with the king finished, and we, who returned from the visit of the castle, decided to wander around the capital.

I decided to go to the clothing shop first to order the coats I promised to Allen and Elena.

This shop prepared the clothes for the audience. At that time, I was choosing from ready-made clothes, but the shop apparently works on orders from scratch.

“Welcome. —Oh my, customer is if I’m not mistaken Ruven House’s...”

“Yes, I was in your care the other day”

When we entered the store, a familiar middle-aged woman welcomed us.

She is the seamstress who adjusted the sizes of the clothes when choosing the clothes at the Ruven House and she’s also the wife of this shop’s manager.

“I’m glad I could be of help”

“I came with a tailoring request today. Those clothes were very comfortable to wear, so”

“Oh dear! Thank you very much. I’m glad you said so~”

When I praised the clothes from the other day, she smiled in delight.

“Then, what kind of article does the customer demands?”

“I would like to order a winter coat for these children”

“Coats, I see. Please, leave it to our shop by all means”

When the Mistress pleasantly agreed—

“Allen, Joule!”

“Elena, Feat!”

“Oh my?”

Allen and Elena cheerfully started insisting on the design of their coats.

But, the Mistress puzzledly tilted her head to the two's words. Well, of course, the meaning won't convey by saying “Joule” and “Feat” after all~

“I'm sorry. They want the same ears as animals attached to the hood”

“Then, Joule and Feat refers to names of your pets or something?”

“Yes, that's right. Might I request to have it done?”

“Fufu. Of course, I will attach lovely ears to the hoods”

“Thank you very much. ——Allen, Elena, she says that she will properly attach ears to the hoods”

““Yay~”“

Eared hoods seems to be okay as well. When I told Allen and Elena that she will attach the ears, they raised both of their hands in delight.

“Well then, shall we chose the fabric first? Since we are talking about winter coats, then a thick skin with fur would be all right, yes? What would be good?”

“Ah, I have fur that I would like you to use, would you mind using that?”

“My? May I see what kind of fur it is?”

“Yes. Umm... this is it”

I retrieved the Water Bear fur from <Infinite Storage> and showed it to the Mistress.

“Is this perhaps... Water Bear fur? How wonderful~ It’s quite impossible to find fur this big without any cuts”

“Is that so?”

“Yes, Water Bear fur has is water and cold resistant so it’s a material with a great affinity to coats, but they are always damaged during its subjugation. That’s why it’s rare to see one that is this undamaged. Furthermore, large furs are very bulky, right? Therefore, even if obtained, they are cut into smaller pieces in order to make them easier to carry”

I see. People who are able to use <Infinite Storage> are few and even if one has a magic bag, the bag’s capacity might not be enough for the fur. If that were the case, then you would want to make the bulky fur easier to carry.

“May I ask you where have you obtained an article this fine?”

“Sure. I obtained this in the Dungeon of Ripples”

“My, that’s if I’m not mistaken... the recently rumored one?”

“That’s right. It’s from the newly discovered dungeon”

N? I suddenly have a thought... for example, if you defeat a Water Bear in the dungeon by chopping it into pieces. At that time, will the dropped item of the fur be also chopped up into smaller pieces?

Or will you obtain a fur as large as we did?

N~ We fundamentally defeat monsters without injuring them too much, don’t we~ The method of defeating monsters might or might not have influence on drop items. I can’t help but be curious after such thought crossed my mind. Let’s verify it next time we enter a dungeon.

“I have obtained it there. I think it won’t be this early, but it’s possible materials from that dungeon will appear soon”

“My! That is a good news. Water Bears are monsters that don’t appear in Guardia that much, so it’s quite difficult to obtain their materials! I have to quickly send a person to Bailey to obtain them!”

Ah, but, we have started encountering Water Bears only at the fifteenth floor. I wonder what floor other adventurers have advanced to?

But well, although not detailed, I have reported information about the dungeon, so it should be fine?

Adventurers should be reaching the floor with the Water Bears soon. At that time, there's no doubt that the materials will start circulating around the market.

“...Erm”

“My, I’m sorry. Rather than that, the coats for these children, right? A fur this large will be enough for the two’s coats. What to do about the color? Should I keep it blue or do you want me to dye it with another color?”

“So it’s possible to dye it, I see”

“Yes, we have many dyes, so we can dye it in any color you would like”

Hee~ so they can dye it in any color we wish, huh~ I thought natural dyes would be mainstream in this world, but there seems to be another method. There should be colors that are impossible to make with natural dyes.

“Allen, Elena, you can apparently choose your favorite color of the coats. What color would you like them to be?”

““Color~?”“

“That’s right”

“Joule’s?”

“Feat’s?”

Yeah, I should have known. They want to make it Joule-ish and Feat-ish in all aspects.

“I see. ——I’m sorry, could you make them look as Fenrir and Celestial Tiger, respectively?”

“...Eh? Customer... you have talked about pets a little while ago, but are you keeping a

Fenrir and a Celestial Tiger?"

"T, they are similar, extremely. It's a bluish-white dog and white cat with black stripes!"

"Oh my, is that so?"

"Yes, that is so!"

Oopsy, close, so close. I was careless. But, I properly deceived her, right?

"Bluish-white might be difficult, right? Besides, white with black stripes might be troublesome... I will pay as much as you ask for it, so could I ask you to do it?"

"It might take a while, but leave both of them to our shop please"

"Really!? Thank you very much!"

I'm glad. It seems I will be able to keep my promise with Allen and Elena.

"Will make~?"

"Yes, it will be complete before it gets cold, so look forward to it, okay?"

"Un!"

Allen and Elena were frolicking about the coats that will match Joule and Feat and showed sparkling smiles after hearing the Mistress' words.

"Fufu, looks like I will have to make it with passion"

The Mistress looked at Allen's and Elena's smiles and closed her eyes as if smiling.

"Then, may I take the children's measurements? I used only approximate size the last time, so I would like to take precise measurements"

"Yes, please do so. ——Allen, Elena, your measurements need to be taken, so come over here~"

"Yess~"

The two lined up before the Mistress and she took their measurements.

“Yes, this is the last one. Thank you for your hard work”

““Hard work~”“

“Allen, Elena. It’s: Thank you”

““Thank you~”“

“Fufu. You are welcome”

When the measurements were taken, Allen and Elena turned towards the Mistress themselves and spoke to her.

They really grew over this short period of time, didn’t they~

“The children’s size will be fine with this. Is it fine for me not to make customer’s —Oniisama’s coat?”

“Ahh~… Please make one for me as well. Would one piece of fur of the same size be all right?”

“Yes, it will, but… you still have more?”

“Yes, I have a few—”

“Won’t you sell them to our store!?”

“…”

How many times have I been jumped because of the materials… so it’s Water Bear fur this time, huh~

I said “a few” but I actually have quite a lot. However, well, rather than letting out so many, selling two or three shouldn’t be a problem, right?

Thinking such, including the piece for my coat, I took out three pieces of fur.

“My, my, my! How delightful~ I will make Customer’s order the top priority! Now then,

let's take Oniisama's measurements!"

The Mistress who got excited by the furs I took out started taking my measurements.

Chapter 111

Beastman and Elf

When leaving the store after negotiating the price, we resumed our stroll around the royal capital.

“Now then, where shall we go next?”

““Ntone~ snacks~!”“

“Oh my? Are you hungry?”

““N~? Hungry~?”“

“I see, then shall we eat something light?”

““Un!”“

Although I said that, there are no stores that sell something to appease your stomach like sweets shop or coffee shop in this world.

“What to do...”

““Dorayaki~”“

“Eh, you are fine with dorayaki?”

““Un!”“

I see, dorayaki, huh? If it's dorayaki then I have pre-made ones, let's find some quiet place to eat~ While thinking such—

At that moment, I heard something akin to a lover's quarrel coming from ahead of us.

“Isn't it fine, Carna”

“No, it isn’t! Release me!”

It seems that a male, grey dog-man or maybe a wolf-man is obstinately trying to court a blonde, cute-looking girl. Well, she quite clearly rejected him, though.

The Beastmen of Aetherdia are a race with human appearances and animal ears and tails, so they look close to a race of cosplayers to me.

There are apparently Beastmen with animal head and limbs too, but that the result of Beastmen specific skill called 【Beastification】. This 【Beastification】 skill has stages, and at the first stage, they turn into human-looking, bipedaling beasts. They apparently turn completely into beasts at the second stage. The sense of hearing and smell during 【Beastification】 become sharper and their physical strength increases, so the skill is commonly used during a battle.

Therefore, most of the beastman are in their human forms within the towns.

I would like to witness the moment of transformation from nearby once, but that’s an impossible talk without any beastmen friends.

“Kya!”

“Oopsy”

“I, I’m sorry”

“No, are you all right? You are not injured, are you?”

“I, I am fine”

The girl the beastman was approaching stumbled towards me, so I promptly caught her.

Eh, oh my? Those ears... aren’t they little longer and pointer?

I was a bit curious, so when I used 【Appraisal】 , the girl’s race came up as Half-elf.

Elves, the indispensable race in fantasy. The characteristic fair-skin and long ears, a race that excels in magic, was it? This girl seems to be a mix of human and that very elven race.

“Oy, you! Don’t go touching Carna as you please!”

“!...”

The beastman tried to seize the half-elf’s, Carna’s, arm while shouting. That moment, a frightened expression floated on the girl’s face.

Seeing that, I avoided the beastman’s hand and hid the girl behind my back.

“Wha! What are you doing! Don’t get in our way!”

“No, the girl seems not to like it”

“That’s unrelated to you, isn’t it!”

The anger in the beastman’s voice increased even further.

“Hey. Erm... Carna-san? Is he your friend, a lover or... someone close to you? Have I done something unnecessary?”

“N, no! That person is just an acquaintance at maximum! He’s a bother who makes advances on me whenever we meet! I always try to clearly reject him, but he quite doesn’t give up... Today, he’s more pushy than usual. I can’t win when it comes to strength after all. But, it’s not like I can use magic inside the town...”

Yeah, he’s already close to being a stalker.

Nevertheless, Carna-san seems like a docile child, but she might be surprisingly a strong-willed one. She intended to intercept using magic depending on the surroundings too.

Now then, now then, what should I do about this? I thought of avoiding troublesome things, but it’s not like I can leave this matter aside now that I got involved in it.

“She said that you are bothering her, don’t you think that you should give up?”

“What is an outsider who butted into our matter saying!”

“N~ Isn’t the reason an outsider, me, butted in because your actions are intolerable?”

“What’d you say! So noisy!!”

First, I tried persuading the beastman so the things wouldn’t become more serious, but he has completely lost his cool and turned deaf ear to me. Far from that, I’m certain that he will result to violence at this rate.

“Oy, Carna! It was me who took care of you just when you became an adventurer!”

Oh my? The two are apparently of the same occupation.

Looking at this beastman, I recall the person who got knocked out in the Shirin’s guild~ What was his name again? Umm... ahh, that’s right! Dominic! Woah~ how nostalgic~ I wonder what happened to that person in the end?

“You have just put on a patronizing air on your own! Don’t say that you are expecting gratitude in return!”

“Haa~!? Stop joking around, Carna!!”

“I’m not joking around. I mean, I wasn’t taught a single thing by you”

—Ah, this is not the time to be recalling the past.

I just left them alone for a little bit and the two’s dispute heated up even more.

“Hey, hey, you two calm down a little”

“But~”

Carna-san stopped when I called out, but she had a dissatisfied expression.

““Defeat~?”“

“Now, now, Allen, Elena, you mustn’t”

““Uniyu~”“

“There, calm down”

Allen and Elena were quiet, but they entered battle mode after recognizing the

beastman as an enemy, so I had to soothe them in a hurry.

“Ehh!? H, huh? Are these children your company?”

“Yeah, that’s right. They are my younger siblings”

Carna-san didn’t seem to notice Allen and Elena who clung to my legs up until now, so she suddenly leaked out a surprised voice.

“There’s quite large age difference, isn’t there? —What am I saying, that’s not it! These children said something about defeating, didn’t they!”

“Ahh... that’s right. But, I would be happy if you pretended you didn’t hear that”

“Eh, but...”

Although Carna-san was startled by the existence of the two, she apparently heard their remark very clearly.

But, is it an essential quality of adventurer not to miss any information? I should follow her example!

“Oy! Don’t be ignoring me now!”

Ah, I completely forgot about him.

“Sorry, sorry. So, have you decided to give up?”

“I told you! Why do you have to be concerned about that! This is Carna’s and my problem, ain’t it!!”

“Ah~...”

Yeah, somehow... we have returned back to the beginning~

“In the first place, because you have butted in, things got complicated even though it went so smoothly!!”

“Even if you say that...”

What “complicated” is he talking about? I don’t think that things would go smoothly for him and Carna-san if I wasn’t in this place either...

“Duel me!”

“No, I don’t think it’s a good idea to propose a duel to a woman...”

“Not Carna, you, I’m talking to you!”

“Haa? With me!? Why!?”

No, no, no, how did it turn out like this!?

“It’s all your fault! Take responsibility and have a match with me!”

Eh-----!?

Chapter 112

I Don't Look Strong

We have just moved to the Adventurer's Guild's practice grounds.

When the beastman brought us to the practice grounds, he went to get the guild's staff, so he's currently not here.

"Carna-san, how did it turn out like this?"

I wasn't able to possibly walk away in silence after seeing an unwilling woman being forcefully pushed by a man and intended to mediate between the two, but... it became a duel between me and the beastman for some reason.

...Really, why did it become like this? I thought of stopping by the Adventurer's Guild, but not in this fashion.

Moreover, it isn't a trivial matter from the beastman's mood as curious onlookers started gathering when he went inside the guild.

"I wonder? Ah, you can call me Carna. Also, although a bit too late, may I know your names?"

"Ah, right. I'm Takumi. These children are Allen and Elena. Best regards"

I got to know her name during the conversation but noticing that we haven't introduced ourselves, I greeted her again.

"I am Allen"

"I am Elena"

"Best regards~?"

Following after me, Allen and Elena cheerfully introduced themselves. However, the two looked at me puzzledly while tilting their heads when saying "Best regards".

It seems that because I only thought them to say "Hello" while introducing themselves in the Ruven House, they found my "Best regards" strange.

When I patted the heads of the two who were troubled about the meaning, they smiled.

"Wow, so cute. Hey, that's not the time! Takumi-san, I'm sorry for getting you involved. Allen-kun and Elena-chan too, I'm sorry"

Carna-san smiled broadly when looking at Allen and Elena, but she immediately got dejected.

"Well, Carna-san is not in the wrong"

"Carna"

"N?"

"Call me Carna!"

"But, Carna-san calls me with "-san" too, don't you?"

"That's that!"

"..."

As I thought, Carna-san is the strong-willed type. Her pushes are strong.

"I got it, Carna. --Is this fine?"

"Yeah!"

When I tried to call her name, Carna smiled delightfully.

"So, is Takumi-san going to accept the duel?"

"Ah~ I think so? It doesn't look like I could decline"

To be frank, although I don't know the beastman's strength, I think I will be all right even if I don't have worries like "I might lose". Therefore, it would be better to

obediently accept the duel to finish things smoother~

“Allen will defeat~!”

“Elena will defeat~!”

“N~ the opponent called me for a fight, so you two mustn’t fight him~”

““Muu~”“

As every time, Allen and Elena are full of willingness to fight.

However, when I told them that I can’t let them participate in today’s duel, the two’s cheeks inflated in dissatisfaction.

““Onii~chan, dorayaki~”“

After a while of pouting, Allen and Elena demanded a snack.

“Ahh, sorry, sorry. Here, sit there and eat up”

““Un!”“

Which reminds me, I was about to give them snacks because their bellies were empty.

I retrieved chairs from the <Infinite Storage> in a hurry and handed the two dorayaki. Then, the sulking expressions of Allen and Elena took a complete turn and they joyfully stuffed their cheeks with dorayaki.

“Takumi-san, what is that? The children are eating it very deliciously though...”

““It’s delish~!”“

“...”

I felt Carna’s piercing gaze of greed.

“Does Carna want to eat too?”

“Is it okay!? I want to eat!”

“I don’t mind. Here you go”

“Thank you♪—Ngu”

She was looking too much, so when I asked if she wants dorayaki too, she immediately replied. So, when I handed dorayaki to Carna, she instantly stuffed her cheeks.

“Nn~ delicious~!!”

“I’m glad it suits your tastes”

“The dark thing sandwiched between is really good. What is this thing called?”

“It’s called dorayaki, the stuffing is red bean paste”

“Dorayaki? First time hearing such name”

“Umm, if I’m not mistaken... it’s a food modeled after a “dora” so it’s called dorayaki, I think?”

“Hee~ “dora” yaki, huh~ it’s really tasty~”

While the children + Carna were eating dorayaki, the beastman returned together with a man wearing the guild’s uniform... he’s making a very dissatisfied expression for some reason.

“...Oy. What are you doing!?”

“N? What you ask, letting the children eat a snack?”

“I’m not talking about that! I’m asking you why are you glossing over the duel with me so much!”

“That’s because I was about to give the children snacks when I got involved in your business after all~”

It appears that he can’t stomach me giving priority to Allen and Elena. However, a snack time is important for children, so I don’t intend yielding in this matter.

“Raizel, I agreed to be the referee, but a duel is something that can be held only

between adventurers. It's unreasonable of you to involve ordinary people!"

"It's fine as long as you give him the registration!"

"You..."

At that moment, the beastman—Raizel raised his voice at the guild staff member in blame.

There seems to be a rule that duels within the guild can be held only between the adventurers, but... well, it seems that I don't look like an adventurer.

"Ah~... excuse me. I'm pretty much registered as an adventurer"

"What!?"

"Hmph. Then there's no problem!"

When I conveyed that I'm an adventurer, the guild staff member was surprised, while Raizel looked at me with suspicion, but he didn't say more as it was convenient to him.

"Umm... you"

"Ah, I'm called Takumi. You will be refereeing? Thank you in advance"

"Takumi-kun, are you really fine with that? Raizel is a short-tempered guy, but he has some ability, you know?"

Hee~ Raizel seems to be strong enough for the guild staff member to worry about me.

"Well, I will manage somehow?"

But, if the guild staff member says he has "some" ability, then I don't think there will be a problem.

"Oy, oy, it will turn out bad for you if you challenge him with such lax feelings. You can still make it. It would be better to stop"

The guild staff member seems to be worrying about me as he tried to persuade me to withdraw from the duel, but if I stop here and Raizel would surely say that I'm running

away with a tail between my legs. I quite don't like the idea of that~

"It would be better for you to confirm my guild card just in case, right?"

"Yeah, that is so. Let me check"

Suddenly having such thought, I decided to show my guild card to the guild staff member.

"Wha!"

The guild staff member who saw my card called out in surprise.

I believe that the guild staff member's attitude would change after finding out my rank.

"T, this! You rank is-!"

"That's the case. As I said before, I believe I will manage somehow, but... what do you want to do? Still stopping me? As for me, I intend to play along with Raizel who challenged me to a duel out of his own convenience, but..."

"...I see. If that so, then I have nothing else to say. I will leave it to you"

The guild staff member finally understood my words and moved to the center of the practice grounds.

"Then, Allen and Elena be good children and wait for me here, okay?"

"“Yess~”“

Raizel moved to the center as well, so I handed fruit water to Allen and Elena and moved to stand opposite to Raizel.

"Oh, a duel? Who is fighting?"

"It's Raizel"

The curious onlookers gathered and the surroundings became noisy.

"Raizel? B-rank[Ash Wolf]Raizel? Who is the reckless opponent?"

“That fellow, him”

“Haa? That delicate-looking man?”

“Yeah. Isn’t the victor in plain sight? This isn’t even a gamble”

“Well~ anyone who mixed with Raizel would bet on him”

...Somehow, I hear the most terrible remarks about myself I heard so far.

Rather, don’t go selfishly gambling on us. Well, I don’t look that strong, so the bets seem to be on Raizel who even apparently got a nickname...

“Listen. Weapons and magic are allowed, there’s no time limit. The victor is decided when one loses consciousness or admits defeat. And also when I, the referee, declares the result. Attacks that could kill the opponent are prohibited. Attacks that could destroy the practice grounds are prohibited. I, Dewitt, will act as the referee”

When Raizel took his position, the refereeing guild staff member—Dewitt-san explained the rules. It appears the rules are close to “anything goes”.

“Are there any questions?”

“No”

“I have none”

When Dewitt-san lastly confirmed, the two of us had no objections.

Raizel put on some steel cover that reached from his wrists up to his elbows. It appears to be equipment for hand-to-hand fighting.

Fully motivated, I believe Raizel will spring towards me simultaneously with the start signal.

“Are you ready? Then, begin!”

Dewitt-san gave the signal to start.

Chapter 113

Duel?

“Ora!”

Immediately after Dewitt-san’s signal, Raizel plunged straight towards me just as I thought. Whether it’s because he’s a beastman, his acceleration was faster than I imagined. But well, Allen and Elena are faster.

When I took a step to the side, Raizel passed by me. It seems that he is unable to change his trajectory midway because of the speed. If it was Allen and Elena, far from changing a trajectory midway, they would ridiculously change the direction they are going in.

Well, as expected wouldn’t comparing the two to Raizel be too pitiful for him?

“Hoo~ you dodged that? But, that was just a fluke, wasn’t it? It’s not over yet!”

Raizel who turned around had an expression of surprise for a moment, but thinking that it wasn’t my intention to dodge but just a fluke, he showed an unyielding smile and plunged towards me yet again.

“<Air Shot>“

With the intention of testing him, I shot a light magic at the plunging Raizel.

“—Guah!!”

“...Huh?”

[.....]

However, the magic I shot splendidly landed on Raizel directly and he got blown off backward. And then, he crashed into the practice ground’s wall and stopped moving.

I intended to burn a little bit of his skin, so I thought of driving Raizel into the corner

bit-by-bit, but... it appears I finished it in an instant.

Although it was noisy until a little while ago, the surroundings are currently wrapped in silence.

“O, oy!?”

Dewitt-san rushed over to Raizel in panic and confirmed his well-being.

He's fine, right? He's alive, right? Rather, I don't recall shooting such strong magic!?

“...He's just unconscious. There are no conspicuous external wounds either”

...I, I'm glad~

I was seriously relieved by Dewitt-san's words.

“Victor, Takumi!”

Dewitt-san who confirmed that Raizel only fainted declared my victory.

He then called people over and had Raizel carried away.

Still... how did it become like this? I really planned on using magic very lightly. I mean, I just tried to test it out.

And yet, a person with considerable strength got splendidly blown away.

Even after trying to find out the reason, I can't come up with anything~ Now then, what do I do...

“He insta-killed[Ash Wolf]?”

“...Seriously?”

“Can someone be this strong!? It's a trickery!”

“What was that magic just now!?”

“Uo---! I would have made a killing if I had bet on him~~~”

I heard surprised and confused voices from the surroundings.

Even though nobody predicted my victory, Raizel has been dealt with in an instant instead. There are several people looking at me with stupefaction.

But, the last person! Don't you grieve about not making a profit!

“Onii~chan, victory~!”“

“Oopsy”

Allen and Elena rushed over and jumped towards me with a great vigor.

“Hey, Takumi-san!! What was that? What just happened? Aren't you tremendously strong!! Why didn't you say anything!?”

Carna who rushed over a little later came with a barrage of questions.

“W, wait, Carna, calm down~”

“Calm down, you say? That's obviously impossible, isn't it? There's no way I can calm down after seeing you defeat Raizel so easily!”

Carna is so excited that I can't seem to calm her down.

Far from that, she grabbed me by the collar and vigorously shook with me.

““Calm down~!”“

“Eh?”

“Allen? Elena?”

While a little bit troubled about Carna, Allen and Elena who were in my arms frowned a little and fired slightly stronger words. Carna was dumbfounded by the two's words.

I also couldn't hide my surprise at the two's unusual behavior.

““Calmed down~?”“

“...Y, yes. I have calmed down. T, thank you?”

““Un”“

When Carna calmed down, the two showed whole-faced smiles.

“Allen, Elena”

““Uniyu?”“

“What’s up with you two all of sudden?”

““Onii~chan, troubled~”“

“Eh? Because I was troubled?”

““Un!”“

Allen and Elena told Carna to calm down because I was troubled?

Uwa~ I’m impressed a little, but~~~

“I see~ Allen, Elena, thank you~”

““Kya, kya”“

I lowered Allen and Elena on the ground and patted the two’s heads with all my heart.

“...Umm, Takumi-san, I’m sorry. The shock I received was too devastating, so...”

“Ah, yeah, don’t mind it. I didn’t tell you anything after all”

Thanks to the children, Carna has completely calmed down and regained presence of mind.

“Seriously. It’s me who got you involved in this strife, but I wouldn’t be this shaken up if you told me at least a little! I was really worried because I’m aware of Raizel strength”

“Ah, sorry about tha—”

--Bang!!

Just when I was trying to apologize to Carna, the practice ground's door vigorously opened and a woman in her forties dressed in the guild staff member outfit rushed inside in a flustered state. After looking restlessly around, she walked towards us.

“Huh? Why are you so fluste—”

“Oh my, Carna. It seems it turned into something troublesome. However, we will talk later. I have no time to talk with you at the moment”

That woman seems to be Carna's acquaintance. Well, she's the guild's staff member so it might be only given that they are acquaintances. But, the woman avoided talking with Carna.

And then—

“Are you Takumi-san? Were you perhaps in Bailey before coming to the Royal Capital?”

Nodding after taking a look at my and the children's faces, she spoke to us.

She, for some reason, knew that we came from Bailey.

“You know about us?”

“Yes, I do. I was told to immediately bring you to Guild Master were you to come here. Therefore, would you please come with me?”

“Yes?”

I have never been involved with the Royal Capital's Guild Master, but... why is a person I have never met concerned about me... what is the talk going to be about?

“N~ It's only natural for you to have many questions, but we can't talk about that in here. Therefore, please!!”

I must have had a really curious expression. The woman put her hands together in front of her face and earnestly requested for us to come with her.

“...Erm, you will explain when we move places, right?”

“Of course. Everything will be explained properly”

“I understand”

“Really? Thank you!”

When I acknowledged, the woman seemed very delighted.

“Then, shall we go!”

“Eh!? Do you really need to go right now?”

“Yeah. Then, Carna, I’m sorry but I will be borrowing Takumi-san”

“Ehh!? Wait a mo—”

“Now, Takumi-san, let’s go”

After the woman simply dismissed Carna, she urged us out of the practice grounds and brought us to the Guild Master’s office.

Chapter 114

Guild Master

We met the Guild Master immediately, but—

“Master, Takumi-san has arrived”

“Good work, Keimi. So, you are Takumi-kun? Also, Allen-kun and Elena-san? How do you do? I’m the Guild Master, Andy”

Young. I thought so the moment Andy called himself the Guild Master.

I mean, isn’t he just a young man slightly older than me? To be the Guild Master at the Capital at such an age?

The Capital’s Guild Master is supposed to be an existence that manages all masters of the Adventurer Guilds spread throughout the country, right? Ah, his ears are slightly pointy, is Andy-san perhaps an Elf?

Thinking so, I promptly used 【Appraisal】 , but his race indicated that he’s a human.

Ah! But, his age!... 45 years old... for real?

“Takumi-kun, what’s the matter?”

“What’s the matter you ask, he’s obviously surprised by your face. Isn’t that right, Takumi-san?”

Indeed, it’s as the female staff member—Keimi-san said, but... I’m surprised by Keimi-san’s casual attitude towards the Guild Master~

“The people who meet Guild Master for the first time get startled by how young he looks. This person’s appearances haven’t changed since his twenties~ He’s a monster, a monster I say”

“A monster you say, my wife sure is cruel~ Even though you know it’s because of the

blood of the Elves in my ancestry~”

“Eh!? Wife!?”

So Keimi-san was the Guild Master’s wife, huh. That’s why she’s so casual with him, I see~ Nevertheless, a monster, huh... that’s not a word you should use for your own husband, isn’t it~

Still, since the Guild Master’s—Andy-san’s ancestors were Elves, then his appearances are related to atavism?

“Ahh, sorry about that. Let me introduce myself again, my name is Keimi. I’m this person’s wife~ Also, thank you for helping Carna. That child, she’s my daughter”

“Eeh!?”

Carna? Eh!? She’s talking about Carna, the Half-Elf that was with me until now, right? She isn’t talking about some other Carna, is she?

A human with an Elvish appearance far younger than his actual age, Andy-san, and a human who looks appropriate for her age, Keimi-san. The daughter the two conceived is a Half-Elf?

“Umm, is Carna-san the same as Andy-san with a deep Elven blood then?”

“Yeah, something like that. Elves and Half-Elves are occasionally born into my family’s lineage. It was only appearances in my case as my abilities aren’t different from other humans, and my life-span should also be the same. On the contrary, Carna inherited the deep Elven blood. We have another daughter called Miki, but that child’s appearance and race are that of a human~ Heredity really is mysterious, isn’t it~”

Truly amazing~ Atavism is something that can appear so conspicuously, huh~

“And so, Carna was helped by Takumi-kun? Did something happen?”

“That child, she was apparently approached by Raizel again~ It seems Takumi-san has helped her with that”

“Again? Even thought Raizel is quite excellent as an adventurer~”

Oh my? The short-tempered Raizel is unexpectedly an excellent adventurer.

Ah but, someone said at the practice grounds that Raizel is[B-rank]. In that case, there's no doubt that he's an excellent figure, huh~ If not, he wouldn't become B-rank.

Love is blind... did he lose his ability to judge when it comes to Carna? I unexpectedly feel like that's the case~

"Well, parents shouldn't meddle with their child's love~ Rather than that, Dear, we strayed off topic and talked about our family's circumstances, but shouldn't we return to the main topic soon?"

"Ah, you're right"

Reminded by Keimi-san's words, Andy-san's facial expression tightened and he faced me again.

"Takumi-kun, about the reason you were called here... you have been very inconvenienced at Bailey. I'm truly sorry for that"

"Takumi-san, I apologize to you as a staff of similar post. I'm truly sorry"

And, together with the words of apology, Andy-san and Keimi-san lowered their heads.

The reason I was called here was for the happenings in Bailey's Adventurer's Guild—to apologize for Miss Receptionist who revealed that I have discovered a new dungeon.

I have made sure not to get involved with Bailey's Adventurer's Guild to best of my abilities, so I have completely forgotten about that.

"Even if Andy-san has the position of overseeing all Adventurer's Guilds in the country, the one responsible for that incident should have been Bailey's staff"

"No, no, Takumi-san, the disclosure of information is a serious matter. It's a matter I should be completely responsible for"

"That's right~ For a receptionist to shout out one's personal information, that is something that should never happen~"

I intended to put that matter to rest at Bailey, but it seems that wasn't the case.

"Is that so? I thank you for your trouble then"

"Originally, I should have gone to apologize personally, but I had no time to visit Bailey. Then I heard that you arrived at the Capital, moreover, you visited the guild, so that's when I thought of calling you to apologize"

"No, no, I'd rather not. If you went to Bailey expressly for me, it would make me feel bad instead"

It can't be helped that I felt extremely uncomfortable when Andy-san said that he wanted to go to Bailey to apologize to me.

"Is that so?"

"Yes. I accept Andy-san's and Keimi-san's apology. It's fine as long as you take care so there's not next time"

"That's only natural"

"Currently, I'm in the midst of notifying all guilds to be thorough in regards to the information management"

If they are re-examining information management, then I can feel a bit at peace.

"At any rate, I'm glad. I was nervous that Takumi-kun might be disgusted with the Adventurer's Guild itself and become distant from the Adventurer activity, but it doesn't seem like that from what I have seen~"

"Eh? I'm just one among many, aren't I?"

"What are you saying? If Takumi-kun stopped Adventurer activities, it would be a great loss for the guild"

"...Is that because I'm A-rank?"

"That too. However, the biggest reason would be the materials the guild receives from Takumi-kun. Those materials are all superior articles after all. There were the materials from Gaya Forest in Shirin too, but you are courteous in your work to collect

even the low-rank herbs. An adventurer like that is like a treasure for us”

I see, rather than rank, they seem to look at one's disposition.

“However, you, who sold many materials like that in Shirin, did not accept a single request in Bailey, right?”

“...Ah, that is certainly true, isn't it?”

I certainly didn't want to approach Bailey's Adventurer's Guild that much, so I didn't accept a single request.

...Nevertheless, not just Bailey, they even investigated our activities in Shirin quite well too. Well, when speaking of commonplace then this should be it.

“Hearing a report like that, I felt really uneasy~”

“I'm sorry about that. I have my thoughts about Bailey, so...”

“So it's like that as I thought”

“Yes. But, I'm thinking of accepting requests here if we have time. The children enjoy picking herbs too”

““Herbs~ will pick~”“

When I showed my intention of accepting requests in the Capital, Allen and Elena showed willingness too.

Seeing the two's attitude, Andy-san and Keimi-san showed smiles.

“Really? I'm looking forward to that. We will be relying on you”

““Un!”“

“There are far more people in the Capital, so even low-ranked monsters or any edible monster meat are very much welcome”

As I thought~ with many people, that much more food is needed after all. The price for monster meat might be quite good in this place.

““Pigs~?”“

“N? Pig? Are you talking about domesticated pigs?”

“No, the two are talking about Orcs”

The[Pigs]the two are talking about are Orcs. Ah, don’t they call Giant Boar like that too? But, most recently, they addressed the Orcs they defeated in Alveil as[Pigs], so I believe they are talking about Orcs.

“Orcs? Orc meat is delicious, isn’t it? I welcome Orc meat anytime. I would like to get as many as possible by all means, but they are too dangerous, so Allen-kun and Elena-san shouldn’t approach them, okay?”

“Allen, can defeat~”

“Elena can defeat too~”

““Ehh~!?”“

Andy-san and Keimi-san raised their voices in surprise at Allen’s and Elena’s words.

“I’m aware that the children were ranked[D], but wasn’t that because of the gathering requests and Takumi-kun’s achievements?”

“Wait a moment, Dear. Even if the children’s true strength was that of D-rank, it would still e impossible for them to defeat an Orc!”

It appears that even the Guild didn’t receive details regarding the advancement of the children’s rank.

That being the case, I think it would normally be as Andy-san says and that their ranks would have increased because of the gathering requests, being partied with me, and my achievements.

““Can defeatmon!”“

I am aware of Allen’s and Elena’s strength, but... the two have recently come to dislike being compared to weak children, and started putting a great emphasis on their growth. But, well, we have officially obtained backing, so it would be fine without

unreasonably concealing their strength anymore, right?

““Takumi-kun, how is it in actuality?”“

Andy-san and Keimi-san who were discussing finally decided to ask me directly. They inquired in unison.

“They can”

““That is incredible”“

When I answered frankly, the two spoke in admiration.

“I have several Orcs we just defeated on my person, would you like to purchase them?”

Since it's a good opportunity, I will have them take some of the Orcs we defeated in Alveil from me. Even though Orc meat might be tasty, it's not an amount we could finish by ourselves~

Ah, should I ask them for the dismantling of the Orc General while I'm at it? I somehow don't have time to do it myself. However, I would like to try Orc General meat soon. I will sell the skin as material.

“Of course, we will purchase them with delight! Also, I forgot to say this, but... as an apology for that incident, for one year, the guild will pay an 10% extra when you sell to us. I'm sorry that we are able to repay you only in this manner, but please use it as much as you please”

“Ehh?”

In my case, when I sell herbs or monster material to the guild, it turns into a considerable amount of money every time. To add extra 10% to that every time... it will become an enormous amount. But well, since it's to apologize, I will gratefully accept~

Chapter 115

It's Been a While

I wanted to sell other materials besides the meat which Andy-san gladly asked a staff member to dismantle, but as expected, it will take some time. In truth, I wanted to speak with Carna whom we have ended up weirdly separating with, but since I couldn't find her even after searching for a while, I decided to visit a shrine instead. I have not visited a shrine since arriving at Bailey after all.

(Oy~ Syl~)

(Ta, Takumi-san! Y, you see!)

(N? Syl, it's been a while. What are you panicking so much for?)

(Actually...)

The shrine in the Capital is far larger and more splendid than the shrines in Shirin and Bailey. When I entered and called out to Syl, he immediately replied.

However, Syl was for some reason extremely panicked and strangely hesitant.

The extremely hasty figure of Syl comes to mind... isn't he usually like this?

(Sorry. Did I perhaps call you during a busy time?)

(N, no, you don't have to worry about that, but... that...)

Syl repeated the action of wanting to say something then closing his mouth several times.

(Syl, in the end, what happened? Since you have such a difficult time speaking, have you made some kind of a strange mess? Let's see~ Have you failed at managing your powers again, or something?)

(Everything in that regard is okay~ That's not it... u, umm, you see... it's about Vector,

but...)

(Vector? What about Vector?)

I urged Syl while teasing him about his failure and Syl reluctantly spoke up.

The subject seems to be Vector, but... what is it? I can't think of anything in particular though~?

(He, he must have caused you trouble, didn't he? I, is everything all right...?)

Trouble? N~... speaking about trouble then I can't seem to recall anything in particular.

(He might be mischievous and occasionally acts as he likes, but I don't think he caused any serious trouble, you know?)

He carried a person in his mouth and dragged the bandits around, but he's a child who listens properly when I say something, isn't he?

(I, is that the truth!?)

When I denied and said that such thing never happened, the tone of Syl's voice got slightly brighter.

(Yeah, it is. What, were you hesitating this much because you thought Vector was causing me trouble?)

(I, I mean~ On the first day Vector went to Takumi-san, he had a person in his mouth, you know~ I was really startled after seeing that~)

(That certainly was startling~)

He picked up Vivian whom he found collapsed, but Vivian's blood-like red hair made me double startled that time~

(Right? I couldn't help but worry that such troubling contracted beast was sent to you. Therefore, I built up the resolution to receive one or two complaints from Takumi-san, but...)

Complaints, huh...

(But you know~ Vector was sent by the Fire God, so even if I wanted to complain, complaining to Syl would be wrong, wouldn't it?)

(Do, do you think so?)

(Is not like that?)

(B, but, Takumi-san didn't contact since then, so... I thought that I exhausted your amiability... sniff. Uu~...)

...Huh? He's crying~!? What is there to cry about?

Eh? Am I at fault for not coming to a shrine for a while by any chance?

(Hey, Syl~? Stop crying!)

(B, but, when I felt relieved, the tears~ Uuu~~~)

Syl really is a crybaby, isn't he~ I can't help but find it strange that he's doing a God's work with such character.

(There, there, don't cry. If you stop crying at once, I will give you dorayaki)

Hey, there's no way I could tempt a God with dorayaki...

(Really!? I wanted to try eating it~~~)

--It workeeed!? Moreover, his tearful voice is gone?

(Eh? You really stopped crying?)

(Ehh!? You were lying to me just now? That was heartless, Takumi-san!!)

(No, no, I just didn't think you would stop crying because of dorayaki. I will give it to you if you want to eat it, but... to begin with, I'm not able to hand over my things to Syl, right?)

Well~ that was surprising~ Although I was just joking~ But well, Syl and the other

Gods sent things to me, so if there's a way for me to send them something, I will do it.

(Then, that's simple!)

--Piron♪

When Syl declared with full of confidence, I immediately heard an electronic sound.

(Takumi-san, please look at the functions of your menu)

When I did as Syl said and opened the screen, there was an additional tab.

(...Magic circle?)

(Yes, correct! First of all, try selecting that function first)

Selecting the Magic circle tab as Syl said, the screen slightly shined and displayed a magic circle.

(This is?)

(That is a magic circle of warping. If you insert an item while pouring your magical power into the magic circle, it will be able to reach my place! How about it? There won't be any problem with this, right?

(...)

Even though people shouldn't be able to manufacture a warping magic tool yet... to pull it off so simply, Syl is a God indeed~ I saw him in a new light.

(Huh? Takumi-san, what's the matter?)

(No, I was just thinking about warping magic tool a bit)

(...Magic tool, is it? Ahh! Come to think of it, warping magic tools have been only discovered in dungeons and people can't produce them themselves back on the surface. As Takumi-san guessed, warping magic tools work on the same principle! While magic stones essentially act as core of the magic tools, they are engraved in this magic circle! Well, the destination of this magic circle is designated to me though!)

(...I see)

No, I haven't really guessed... Syl, was it all right to tell me? But well, it wasn't many people who heard it but just me, so there shouldn't be a problem.

If you compare the differences between a magic circle of warping and warping magic tool, would it be the simplicity of the duplication the magic tools?... While thinking such—

(Ahh! I forgot about something!!)

Syl suddenly shouted.

(It's about Vector, but... the situation seems to be all right in the end, but I have prepared useful items for discipline. You might not need it, but I will send it to you anyway so please accept it)

Items for discipline, huh~ Syl really was anxious about Vector, wasn't he?

(Is that so, I understand. Then, I will gratefully accept. Thanks for your consideration)

(No, it's a matter of course! Then, thank you very much for coming today. I'm looking forward to the dorayaki)

(Haha, I will send it immediately. Then, see you again, Syl)

--Piron♪

"Now then, let's send the dorayaki first..."

When the conversation with Syl ended, I heard another electronic sound.

I'm curious about what came, but let's send the dorayaki before I forget.

I selected the magic circle on the screen, poured magical power inside and put dorayaki on a plate on it. Then, the plate gradually sunk into the magic circle.

““Gone~?””

Allen and Elena looked at me in wonder.

Did it look as if the plate disappeared into nothingness? It would be better not to do it in front of people then.

“This you see, was sent to a person who is taking care of me”

““Taking care~?”“

“Yes. He takes care of Allen and Elena too”

““I see~”“

After making sure that the plate disappeared, I checked the new items Syl sent next.

“—Wha! What the hell is this!!”

Seeing the words on the list, I was shocked.

A collar is well... acceptable. I have heard of lesser familiar collars before. Rather than for looks, that item forces to obey orders. Whether I use it or not is within the tolerable level.

But, even so!

A whip! A cord!! Even chains!? What did you want me to use it for!!

Also... silver vine?... Ahh, because lions are cats?... Would it work?

Green foxtail? This is completely for playing... but, not only Vector, wouldn't Feat be happy too? No, I feel like Joule would like it too.

But... I feel like he made a mistake in certain delicate items.

Chapter 116

Shoe Shop

After leaving the shrine, we went towards the shopping district.

“It’s crowded, isn’t it~”

““Amazing~””

There was a wide variety of shops and stalls on the shopping street and it was crowded.

“Ah”

Then, after walking for a while, I caught sight of a signboard of a shoe shop.

There are many shops which deal with leather products such as shoes, harnesses and armor. However, this shop seemed to be a shoe specialty store which is rare in this world.

“Allen, Elena, shall we have our shoes made there?”

““Shoes~?””

“Yup, shoes. Let’s go~”

““Un””

Recalling that I wanted to make shoes for Allen and Elena—boots made of Evil Viper skin, we decided to enter that shop.

“Welcome~”

“Hello. Umm, does this shop also make shoes for children?”

“Yes, of course. This store is for children and elderly, as well as people with feet

problems. We will prepare any shoes according to the customer's request"

Ohh~ this shop feels somewhat reliable~

"In that case, are you able to attach the automatic size adjustment?"

"Yes, it's possible. This shop has a contract with an excellent enchanter"

It seems they are able to imbue magic---enchantments into the shoes as well.

"Then, I would like to place an order"

"Thank you very much. Well then, please wait a moment while I call for a craftsman that will be responsible for customer's order"

Apparently, it's not the shop assistant but the craftsmen themselves that receive the orders directly.

"Thank you for waiting"

Is this person the craftsman? The one who immediately came over was an extremely whitish, tall and thin man.

"I'm Gallon and I work as a shoe maker. I heard that you would like to place an order for children shoes. Please let me hear your order in detail over there"

Ah, he really was a craftsman~

We were guided by the craftsman---Gallon-san to a table with chairs, where we will have the talk.

"Have you decided on what kind of shoes you would like?"

"Erm, I would like boots with automatic size adjustment for these children. Let's see~ I would like to request both short and long boots"

"Short and long boots with automatic size adjustments, is it?"

"Ah, could I request a pair for me as well? Also, I would like to use the material in my possession, would that be possible?"

Whoops, I can't forget about the material~

"Yes, you brought the material then? There's no problem. Do you have the material on your person?"

"I do. ---I would like to use this"

When I took out the Evil Viper skin from the <Infinite Storage> and handed it to Gallon-san, he opened his eyes wide and his white complexion quickly reddened.

"Th, th, this is! Ehh!! The genuine thing!?"

This is that, isn't it? Identical to the craftsmen from before, Gallon-san must have understood what kind of material it is. From what I've experienced so far, he would be delighted and excited about the materials after this.

Yeah, if that's the case then I better leave him alone for a while.

"---... Wau~"

"“Ah!”“

"Eh!?"

Just as I thought such, Gallon-san---*thud*, fell from the chair with a splendid sound.

"Ehh? Are you all right?"

When I rushed over to Gallon-san and checked his condition, I found out that he lost consciousness.

"Did he faint?"

"“Faint~?”“

"Seems like it"

I really didn't think he would faint, but... was it because he was too excited?

"Erm, call the shop's employee..."

“Ha!”

Thinking that I shouldn't leave Gallon-san on the floor like this, the moment I was about to call someone, Gallon-san suddenly jumped up to his feet.

“D, dream? Ahh... it felt like I finally saw the Evil Viper skin I yearn for, but... it was a dream, huh...”

Gallon-san who restlessly looked around hung his head down dejectedly.

Dream? I don't know what just happened, but did Gallon-san saw a dream in this short while?

“Umm... are you all right?”

“Haeh? Huh, Customer is... eh!? It wasn't a dream!!”

“...Err?”

“Customer brought an Evil Viper skin with you, right!?”

“Yeah, well...”

“Ohh~ it wasn't a dream!!”

Gallon-san stood up and took the Evil Viper skin that was on top of the table in his hands.

“What a beautiful black! This gloss! Radiance! Haa~... To think that the day I would be able to hold it in my hands would come...”

...I see. He really lost his consciousness the moment he saw the Evil Viper skin. Did he think the conversation itself was a dream?... Anyhow, he seems to be all right after falling down.

“So... will you able to make it?”

“Of course! Please leave it to me!”

No~ yeah, he has a plenty of motivation.

“Then, I will leave it to you”

“Yes! I will bring out the design samples right away!”

Saying such, Gallon-san started lining up different boot designs.

Not only the design pictures, but also the actual products that were on display in the shop.

“How is it? Are any to your liking?”

“Are all of these for adults? Can they be chosen for the children?”

“Yes, there’s no problem”

“Is that so? ——Allen, Elena, how is it? Do you like any of these?”

““N, you see~”“

Most of them are lace type boots, but there are many to choose from. There are many with ribbons for women in particular.

““This~?”“

Allen and Elena looked at the different shoes, but they simultaneously pointed at the same boots.

The boots the two chose are very similar to the boots they are wearing now.

“You like these?”

““Un!”“

Since the boots that will be made this time will be black, they will be different although similar, so oh well.

“Then, these will do for the short boots. As for the long boots, let’s see~ How about these? Ah, these over there are also nice~”

The short boots were decided, so it’s time for the long boots now. The long boots are

of the below the knee length, it's a type of boots the two haven't worn so far.

"Allen, this one~"

"Elena wants that one~"

Allen chose the simple laced boots I pointed at first and Elena chose boots decorated with a ribbon.

"Then, these will be it"

"Un. Oniichan's?"

"Mine? Let's see, I will get the same type as you two as well"

"Matching~?"

"Right, we will be matching"

When I decided on the design of my boots, it was the time for the size measurement.

"Although the size will change with the automatic size adjustment, the boots will only adjust to fit a size that is somewhat larger than the original. Therefore, it will be, as expected, impossible to keep wearing them until the children grow into adults. Could I please have your understanding?"

Ah, there are people who think their children could wear the same shoes until they grow into adults when they hear about the size adjustment? So that's why he explained it in a way where there wouldn't be any complaints about it in the future, huh~

"Yes, I understand"

"Well then, two pairs of short boots, two pairs of long boots for the children, and one pair of short boots for a man. All five will be enchanted with automatic size adjustment and will be made from the Evil Viper skin. Is there no mistake in the order?"

"Yes, there's no mistake"

Double checking so that there's no mistake in the order, what was left was the

negotiation of prices. At that time, I made sure that the boots would be made sturdy.

"Thank you very much for your order. I will pour my heart out to complete it!"

Alright, now we only have to wait for the boots to be made. Gallon-san was in high spirits, so I'm sure he will make something good~

Chapter 117

Orc Meat

After leaving the Shoe Shop we decided to return to the Adventurer's Guild.

At that time--

[Now, now, today's precious meat has arrived! Unexpectedly, it's Orc meat! It's a fresh one that just came in. However, today is a big below the cost service!! The price comes with 20% discount! How about splurging a bit today and having an Orc steak for dinner? This action ends as soon as we run out. Now, buy, buy!]

A butcher-looking person was advertising a special orc meat sale in a loud voice.

Moreover, all the housewives who heard that simultaneously started gathering at the butcher's.

““Pig~?”“

“Seems like it”

Orc meat that has just came in... no need to guess, isn't it the one we dropped at the guild? There's no need to wait for the monster meat to mature as it's best eaten fresh, so they probably send it to the market immediately after dismantling.

Still... Orc meat is quite popular, isn't it~ It indeed sells like hotcakes.

The people of the town commonly eat Wolf and Horn rabbit meat. Orc meat is several times better meat, so the price should be inevitably higher, but... were the people attracted by the below the cost discount?

“Allen will eat the pig~”

“Elena too~”

“Haha. Did it make you guys crave Orc meat too? All right. Currently, I'm having the

Orc General dismantled in the guild, so let's eat that for dinner?"

"“Yaay~!”“

I finally got it dismantled, so let's borrow the Ruven House's kitchen and prepare it~

"Then, let's return for today after receiving the meat from the guild"

"“Un!”“

Although there's still time until dinner, when taking the time of discussing the borrowing of the kitchen and food preparation in consideration, it would be safer to return sooner.

"Takumi-san, I was waiting for you~"

When we entered the Adventurer's Guild, Keimi-san was waving her hand at us from the reception.

"This way, over here~"

And, she immediately beckoned us to the warehouse.

"Have we kept you waiting?"

"Oh my, it's not like we have decided on time, so you don't have to worry about that. Then, this is the Orc General meat you have requested. Please verify it"

The gigantic Orc General turned into a considerable amount of meat.

"Thank you very much"

"No, no, I'm so happy I could scream that you decided to turn over the Orc General skin to the guild. The orc assessment has also finished, so let's settle the accounts now"

"Yes, please"

When we returned to the reception counter, Keimi-san immediately started operating the crystal plate.

“Ah, may I have your guild cards?”

“Yes. Allen and Elena too, okay?”

““Yes~”“

“Thank you. Wait for a moment, alright?”

Keimi-san suspended the operating temporarily, asked for our guild cards and resumed operating the crystal.

“10% has been added to the proceeds as promised. Also, this is the case only within Guardia, but it has been decided that the monsters Takumi-san brings for dismantling both while selling and bringing back with you will be free of charge for indefinite”

“Eh!? Is that all right?”

“Yes, it has been decided by our Master’s authority, so please use it as you please. Although I said that, the guild is still anticipating that Takumi-san would sell materials except those you need to us like this time”

Well, in the case of having the guild dismantle, I don’t mind leaving the materials I don’t need to them.

Ah~ I see, I see. I would be using the guild’s dismantling service free of charge and I would be also getting additional 10% when selling... for that, I would have to pour my materials back to the guild~

“Now then, this should be it. Takumi-san, what would you like to do about the money? Is it all right to hand it over to you in coins?”

“Ah~ let’s see~ could you split the money in half and deposit it into the children’s cards?”

“Deposit into the children cards, half each. Understood”

I have the money I got from the country at me, so let’s deposit what we earned this time.

Right, right, about the cash reward I received from Tristan-sama that time... you won’t

believe this! They were Large Gold coins. One piece is approximately 100,000 yen. I haven't counted how many pieces there are, but it's a considerable large amount of money. Therefore, there would be no need to be troubled over our income for a while.

"Here, it's done. Can you confirm please?"

"Umm... yes, everything's all right. Thank you very much"

"I should be the one thanking you for the various things beginning with my daughter"

"No, no. Err, I wasn't able to see Carna after that, so please convey my regards to her if possible"

"Yes, of course. However, if you have an opportunity to meet at the guild, do call out to her"

"Yes"



After taking care of the business in the guild, we immediately returned to the Ruven House where I was about to discuss the borrowing of the kitchen. But, I was given the permission before the discussion even started.

I was told that Matthias-san notified the kitchen staff to let me use it freely whenever I want.

"I'm sorry to bother you during work"

"No! We will be learning from you today!"

"Eh!?"

When I intruded into the kitchen, the awfully motivated Ruven House chefs were waiting for me inside.

Learning from me... learning what!?

"That ice-cream thing was extremely wonderful! Takumi-sama is a genius! So, what are you planning on making today? Please, instruct us by all means!!"

“ ”

No... I don't really mind, but. I don't do full-blown lessons, so stay behind me and learn from watching.

“Then, Allen, Elena, shall we do it?”

““Yes~ Pig~”“

Now then, what shall I make? It's the Orc General meat after all. Might as well, meat! A dish with such feeling would be nice~

“Ah! How about Tonkatsu?”

““Tonkachi~?”“

Unfortunately, Tonkachi is not food.

“Haha, it's slightly different. It's Tonkatsu”

““Tonkatsu~!”“

When I corrected them, the two properly corrected themselves.

“W, what kind of dish is this Tonkatsu!?”

“W, well, let's make it first, I will explain if there's something you don't understand”

“Yes! Please, go ahead!”

The chefs were very curious, but rather than explaining it, it would be faster for them to see.

Therefore, I immediately chopped the Orc General meat I took out in suitable pieces, and lightly seasoned it with salt and pepper.

“Then, Allen. Cover this in flour like this~ and shake off the excess flour like this”

“Yesss~”

“Could Elena dip the meat Allen covered in flour in the eggs?”

“Yess~”

I had Allen and Elena help me by covering the meat in flour and whisked eggs.

“Then, I will...”

“Takumi-sama, what is this?”

“N? Ahh, this is called panko, a crushed dried bread without crusts”

In my case, they weren’t completely air-dried as I sped up the process with <Dry> magic.

“Elena, pass it to me once it’s covered in eggs”

“Yes~”

Once it’s covered in panko, all that’s left is to fry it.

“Alright, the temperature should be good. Allen, Elena, it might be dangerous to watch a hot oil from nearby, so could you stay slightly further away please?”

““Eeh~”“

When I asked the two to stand back as I can’t fry with the children clinging to my legs, the two let out reluctant voices.

“My? Do you not want to eat Tonkatsu anymore?”

““Want~”“

“Just a bit, okay?”

““Uu~”“

The two reluctantly separated from me when I told them that they wouldn’t be able to eat Tonkatsu if they didn’t. The chefs then formed a Tonkatsu gallery and watched me frying in excitement.

Chapter 118

Tonkatsu

After finishing deep-frying the tonkatsu, I realized that I don't have a tonkatsu sauce.

Well, it can be eaten with soy sauce or something, but thinking that it would be better if there was the sauce after all, I immediately put the tonkatsu in the <Infinite Storage> and decided to hurriedly make the sauce.

Although I say that, I have never made the sauce before, so I will try making a prototype and if I fail, we will just have to eat it with soy sauce.

Err, sugar into the Turi fruit (tomato) paste... no, would honey be better? Also, a bit of soy sauce and vinegar? White sesame... and some condiments?

N~ what condiments should I use? Do I use garlic and ginger after all?

“Something like this~?”

It's different from the tonkatsu sauce I was imagining, but I was able to make a so-so sauce. This should also go well with tonkatsu.

“Takumi-sama, is this a sauce for the deep-fried dish called tonkatsu you made?”

“Yes, that's correct”

The chefs immediately reacted at the completion of the sauce.

“M, may we please have a taste?”

“...Ah, yes. Here you go”

“Then, excuse me”

Moreover, they waited with tightly grasped spoons.

“Onii～chan, Allen too～”

“Elena too～”

“This is a sauce, you know?”

““Don’t mind! Taste～”“

Allen and Elena followed after the chefs and started speaking of tasting the sauce.

“Then, just a lick, okay?”

““Un!”“

After letting the two taste it, it was about the time, so I started arranging the dishes.

And, the dinner time.

Tonight, we are eating with Matthias-san, Rebecca-san and Wald-sama who has just returned from the work.

“It seems that Takumi-san prepared tonight’s meal. What did you make?”

“The main is a meat dish. I hope it will suit your tastes though”

“Oh, Takumi was cooking today? Each and every dish of Takumi’s is unusual and tasty on top of it. I’m looking forward to it～”

“Oh my, Takumi-san is not only good with sweets, but at cooking as well, I see～”

Matthias-san and Rebecca-san were very interested while Wald-sama had an expression full of expectations.

““Onii～chan’s meals, delish～!”“

“My, my, the meals Oniichan makes must be very tasty then?”

““Un!”“

When Allen and Elena boasted of my delicious meals, Rebecca-san looked at the

children with a heartwarming smile.

The children has already let their guard down completely in front of Rebecca-san.

“As I thought, little children are nice, aren’t they~ Wald-san——”

“Please ask Elder brother for grandchildren”

“Really~ how heartless~”

Wald-sama rejected Rebecca-san’s urging for grandchildren without hesitation.

It seems that Wald-sama has not thought about the marriage yet. I imagined that nobles would have fiancé or fiancée, but are the second sons who aren’t succeeding the house perhaps relatively free?

“It came. Takumi, what is this dish called?”

While having such a talk, the meal arrived. Then, looking at the dish in front of him, Wald-sama immediately asked about its name.

“It’s called tonkatsu, deep-fried meat in a finely crushed bread”

“Hee~ tonkatsu, huh~ by the way, what meat is it?”

“It’s Orc General”

““Eh!?”“

Matthias-san’s and Rebecca-san’s surprised voices resounded.

Is Orc General meat unpalatable by any chance?

“...The one from Alveil?”

“Yes, that’s correct”

Wald-sama rubbed his glabella.

“I heard you went to the Adventurer’s Guild today, did you not sell it?”

“I kept all the meat while selling everything else, you know?”

“...I see. Takumi, I will tell you one thing. Even nobility seldom get to eat Orc General meat”

“Is that so?”

I imagined that nobility would eat only high-quality meat, but... it seems I was wrong.

In the Risner House... ah~ seafood was their main ingredient, so I didn't hear much regarding meat~

“Yeah, well you might be able to eat it if you splurge, but we usually eat the orc meat”

“Hee~”

If you usually eat the orc meat common families have to splurge to buy, it would mean that you are eating a good meat, huh... this isn't good. Because the meat we eat is mostly supplied by ourselves, it feels strange feeling like this. I mean, I thought of occasionally eating the meat of the A-ranked Evil Viper, you know?

“Well, I will eat it since it's a special occasion”

“...Yes, go ahead. Matthias-san and Rebecca-san too, eat before it gets cold”

“Yeah, let's eat”

“Let's eat then, Takumi-san”

Rather, for Wald-sama to point that out... I'm a bit shocked.

“Allen and Elena too, let's eat”

““Un! Itadakimaasu~”“

“Itadakimasu”

Seeing the Ruven family's three eat, we also started eating.

“This fellow is tasty~ The Orc General meat itself is tasty, but this cooking method and

sauce is so good!"

"Yeah, this is nice. It's my first time experiencing this crunch on outside"

"It's very delicious~"

"“Delish~”“

"Ohh!"

Uwa~ Orc General meat... this is delicious~ It's tender but properly chewy and also juicy. It's affinity with cutlet is superb!

It could be eaten not only as tonkatsu, but katsu curry, katsudon, katsu-sandwich and other ways as well~ I want to try eating it like that next time!

"Takumi, would our chefs be able to cook this?"

"They were seeing me make it, so I think they will be all right"

"I see!"

Wald-sama seemed to like the tonkatsu very much as he laughed delightfully when he got to know that the chefs here would be able to cook it.

"You know? That dish which we ate on the way to the capital... curry and rice was it? It seems like it would go well with this dish"

"That would be katsu curry"

Wald-sama is quite skillful. It appears that he arrived at the concept of katsu curry on his own.

"Oh, there really is such dish after all! I would love to eat it right away, but that's probably unreasonable so I will have to ask the next time"

"Allen will eat too~"

"Elena will eat too~"

It seems like katsu curry has been decided for the next time.

“Say, this curry and rice? What is it? It’s a name of a dish, isn’t it?”

At that time, Rebecca-san asked about curry and rice. Matthias-san seemed to have the same question as he looked similarly in wonder.

“Umm... curry is something like a soup stewed with several herbs, flour and vegetables, and rice would be the White Wheat”

Curry and rice is difficult to explain no matter how many times I get asked, isn’t it~

“White Wheat, you mean that White Wheat!? Takumi-kun, White Wheat can be eaten?”

When I explained what kind of dish it is, Matthias-san raised his voice in surprise.

“Yes, it might look hard, but it immensely softens when cooked. That’s why it was typically eaten instead of bread in my home town”

Huh? This conversation... seems similar to one I had with Wald-sama on the way to the capital?

“That thing tastes really simple, but it becomes really great depending on the dish it comes with, doesn’t it~”

Wald-sama fondly commented.

“Is that so? N~ that is very interesting. The next time you make this curry and rice, would you please let me eat it as well?”

“Oh my, I will be also intruding at that time”

Everyone seems to have decided on eating curry and rice the next time.

Chapter 119

Reward Item

Today, we have come to the castle to see the treasury.

“Hee~ there really are many things~”

““Many~”“

As a reward for the Evil Viper subjugation, the discovery of the dungeon, etc., it has been decided that I can take an item from the treasury... although I saw the list, I had no idea what's what, so we have decided to take a look at the items in the treasury directly.

“This is the section for all kinds of arms. This sword is called[Frozen Cursed Sword]and praises are sung about its ability to freeze over plains with a single swing. This[Thunder]is a spear that produces lightning. And this is... —”

The Prime Minister guided us through the treasury.

Why is the Prime Minister expressly guiding us-!? is what I thought, but when I take the place into consideration, then it's only given that an ordinary person wouldn't be guiding us.

Still... this treasury has everything.

There were the weapons with incredible power Prime Minister just explained about, a display of fascinating necklaces, and fist-sized gems with terrific purity among other things.

However, there were also cursed items among them. Instincts told me to not ever touch those things. Of course, Allen and Elena were also extremely vigilant.

While looking at such articles that were introduced to me one by one—

“This is called magic motion device”

“N?”

Magic... motion device, he said? Eh? This... isn't that a camera!?

The moment we approached the magic tool section, something I was interested in appeared.

“Seems like Takumi-dono is interested in this”

“Y, yes. Umm, could you tell me about its functions in detail please?”

“Sure. You look at the scenery through the light of this magic stone and it will make a copy on this special paper—[Magical power paper]”

It's slightly too large as it seems that it has to be held with both hands, but I can see a place for a lens and it records the scenery on a paper... hey, it really is a camera, isn't it?

“The specialty craftsmen are able to reproduce the magic tool itself, but because the method of creating the magical power paper has been lost, only several pieces are stored here. Therefore, if I'm pushed to say, then this magical power paper is the genuine treasure”

N~ so that means this magical power paper is something like a photographic paper for the magic tool's exclusive use.

“It cannot copy onto other types of paper at all? Like, it will change the color or it will get crooked for example?”

“Yes, it won't copy over to the paper no matter what”

“I see...”

Even though it could fade, it still can't be applied on an ordinary paper, huh.

I thought of making a treasured album full of scenes with Allen and Elena~ It seems it won't go that smoothly.

It seems that the magic tool itself can be produced, but I should choose this as the reward and obtain the few remaining magical power papers~

“It feels like you have already decided on this”

“Yes, it appears so. Ah, if I choose these magical power papers, how will you deal with the magic motion device? If I can’t receive it as well, then I would like to get introduced to a craftsman who could make it if possible...”

“Please don’t worry. I will hand it over to you as well. However, are you really fine with this? There are only several pieces of magical power paper left?”

“Yes, I will go with this”

“Is that so?”

I have selected the magic motion device and magical power paper as my items of reward.

I would be completely lost when choosing from as many things as this, so it’s best to go with the first impression!

““This~?”“

“Yes, I decided to take this. Is that fine with you?”

““Un, is fine~!”“

I have decided all by myself without listening to Allen’s and Elena’s opinions, but the two gave me their consent.

“That’s right, Prime Minister. Haven’t you heard stories of the magical power paper being found in dungeons or something?”

Right, right, I have to ask about this! This unable to produce, miraculous thing should be obtainable in dungeons, I think.

“It were only a few, but they were found indeed”

“Really!?”

Ohh! Then, it doesn’t mean that I won’t be able to get more magical power papers in the future.

Magical power paper... magical power paper, huh~... one would think it's just paper loaded with magical power from its name, but making a paper loaded with magical power... doesn't seem possible, as expected.

“Do you mind if I touch it?”

“No, it’s already Takumi-dono’s, go ahead”

“Thank you very much”

Getting the permission from Prime Minister, I took the magical power paper in my hands.

Indeed, the magical power paper is carrying magical power. But, it’s maintaining the magical power differently from humans or the source of magical power that are magic stones.

“Magical power papers were produced in the past, right?”

“Yes, it has been already several hundred years, but paper craftsmen of that time were able to produce them”

N~... if I had to guess by this feeling, then I would say that the traces of magical power were knead into it? Ah~ let’s see~... --

“...Is it possible to knead the magical power of magical power carrying objects into other materials?”

“Ta, Takumi-dono!? W, what have you just said!?”

“Eh?”

It appears that I said my thoughts out loud.

“Did you say: knead the magical power of magical power carrying objects into other materials?”

“...Umm, that I did~”

“For example, what object do you have in mind??”

“W, what object?”

The Prime Minister is looking at me with extremely expectant eyes, but...

This, would it be bad if I don't answer?... Err, let's see~

“As expected, a magic stone would be my first choice?”

“Magic stone!”

“Y, yes, grinding the magic stone to powder and add it to the mixture, for example? Or perhaps... the material for paper are trees, right? Then, how about using wood that contains the magic element? Or to some extent, the trees from Gaya Forest...”

“Gaya wood!”

The Prime Minister had an exaggerated reaction when I replied with things that could be used as a material for the magical power paper. But—

“Well, the specialized craftsmen had already tried that, didn't they?”

If the method has been lost, then the researchers and craftsmen must have tried considerable amount of ways to reproduce it. What I came up with, those people surely tried before.

“No! I have never heard of people trying such methods!”

“Ehhh-!?”

“Up until now, we have been trying to find a way of loading objects with magical power, so we have never thought of using objects carrying magical power themselves! It's worth giving such method a try! I have to contact the research institute and the workshop immediately! The lost technology might be resurrected!”

“Eeeeeh-!?”

...Have I done something that will become a serious matter again?

“We will manage with the magic stones, but the problem is the Gaya wood. Those don't flow on the market as much as we'd like after all... n? Takumi-dono, do you perhaps...

possess some?"

"..."

"That face says that you do"

The Prime Minister was asking a question, but his expression tells me that he's convinced.

How did he know~? Is my face that readable?

"Could you hand us over a few?"

"...Yes. I understand"

"Thank you very much!"

Well, it will be favorable for me if the magical power paper comes out of it and I could get my hands on more. Why don't I just sponsor them with a Gaya tree or two... or even ten!

Although we have derailed a little, we who have come to select our reward were given the magic motion device and magical power papers on the spot.

Chapter 120

Royal Chefs

After leaving the treasury, we went with the Prime Minister to transfer the Gaya trees.

When that finished smoothly we arrived at the castle's kitchen.

It was in order to teach the castle's chefs the promised Cream bread and Anpan.

"I will be in your care today"

"..."

When I said hello to the castle's chef in the center of the kitchen that was introduced to me, he just lightly nodded with no other response. Is he perhaps discontent that the greatest chef—the royal castle's chef like him suddenly has to follow instructions of an amateur like me?

"Head chef, this person came expressly on His Majesty's request. Don't show your shyness in front of a person like that!"

"Eh!?"

W, was he shy of strangers? Moreover, this person is the head chef!?

I opened my eyes wide in surprise at the words of the another chef that stood next to the head chef.

Woah~ so he didn't find me unpleasant or anything, he was just being shy, huh... he doesn't hide behind others, but seeing a man in his fifties with similar attitude Allen and Elena had just a while ago is a little laughable.

"I'm really, really sorry about our Head chef! Even though he's like this, I can guarantee his skills!"

"N, no, it's all right. I don't mind"

“Thank you very much! Ah, I didn’t introduce myself. I serve as the sous-chef and my name is Wagner. Thank you very much for coming on this occasion! There, Head chef, please greet him properly!”

The other chef was a sous-chef, huh.

The sous-chef—Wagner-san greeted me with a very respectful attitude. Well, we have come under the name of the King of Guardia, Tristan-sama after all. It’s an inevitable attitude to have once knowing that, I guess?

“...I am Carl. I will be in your care today”

The head chef—Carl-san said in a feeble voice, however, he properly introduced himself.

To serve as the head chef in the castle with such personality, as Wagner-san said, he must have a considerable skill in cooking. Ah, also because of Wagner-san’s follow-ups?

“My name is Takumi. Once again, please treat me kindly”

“I am Allen”

“I am Elena”

““Best regards~”“

When I introduced myself once again, Allen and Elena said hello after me. Then, the two looked at me with expressions that said “How was it?”, so I heartily patted the two’s heads.

“U, umm...”

“Ah, excuse me. Err, I don’t know whether you heard or not, but today’s plan is to teach you how to make a bread...”

Pulling myself together, I confirmed whether the people in the kitchen grasped what we are doing today. I mean, I’m not teaching them any dishes today, but bread, you know? And yet, the head chef and sous-chef have come as well?

It would be more understandable if it were a bread maker rather than Carl-san or Wagner-san, but...

“Yes, we heard of it! That’s why in addition to the two of us, we have gathered several bread makers to receive your instructions! We were told that it would be better if the dough was prepared, so the bread makers are currently preparing it”

Eh? Carl-san, Wagner-san. And, several bread makers? Isn’t that too many people?

“Not only the bread makers, but the head chef and sous-chef as well?”

I unintentionally let out my thoughts from my mouth.

“Well, of course! It’s unlikely, but we will be there so that they wouldn’t miss the recipe, they mustn’t mishear it by any chance after all!”

“...I, is that so?”

What is it... this enthusiasm... ah~ but, he’s someone who cooks for the king, so it might not be good if he wasn’t like this, right~ Yeah, I can consent if it’s like that.

“Well then, shall we begin at once?”

“Yes! Then, please come this way!”

This is not only where the royalty’s food is made, but also where the food of the people working in the castle is made, so the kitchen is considerably large with a fitting amount of people working here.

When we arrived in the inner part of the kitchen where Wagner-san guided us, the gazes of the people inside gathered at me.

“...Is that him?”

“Seems like it. But, doesn’t he seem younger than us?”

“Then, was those rumors false?”

“Might be so”

“Oy, oy! Moreover, he even brought children with him. What does he think this place is!?”

I heard various voices coming from inside.

“I, I’m sorry. Youngsters are like that...”

It must have reached Wagner-san’s ears too as he apologized in panic.

“Well, I have brought children to this kitchen that you guys consider a holy place, so... it can’t be helped~”

The owners of the voices were young men who didn’t seem much older than me. They must take pride in being able to work in the castle at their age. And here I am, a person from outside, standing next to the head chef and sous-chef, so no wonder they feel displeasure. And just as someone said, I have brought Allen and Elena with me.

“Oy! Do you guys have a spare time to chatter pointlessly! Are the preparations for the training finished!? Aan? What is this mountain of unpeeled vegetables!!”

“““I, I am sorry!”““

“Do it immediately!”

“““Yes!”““

All of sudden, Carl-san approached the youngsters and started shouting at them.

A great difference from his attitude from until a while ago.

“Erm... sorry, but is that how Carl-san usually is? “

“Ahh, let’s see. What was shown to Takumi-san a while ago was something that happens extremely rarely. I’m truly sorry. A bit more... if a bit more of time passes, he should be able to hold a normal conversation with you, I think...”

I see. That is how Carl-san normally is.

I was worried whether he was fit to work as the head chef, but it seems that it was unnecessary.

“It really is all right, so please don’t worry about it”

““Don’t worry~”“

At that time, Allen and Elena repeated my words.

“N?”

““Nniyu~?”“

“Oh my, oh my?”

““Oh my, oh my~♪”“

It appears they are playing by mimicking me.

“Are you copying me?”

““Copying~”“

“Fufu, is it fun?”

““Fun~”“

“Is that so?”

““That so~”“

Someway or another, they continued imitating me for a while.

“...?”

When Carl-san returned, he looked at me and the children with a puzzled expression.

“Ahh, I’m sorry that you had to raise your hand for our sake, Carl-san”

“...No, it was caused by my clumsiness. I apologize for not training my subordinates properly”

When I apologized to Carl-san, he returned the apology with a feeble voice.

Not sure where his vigor went, Carl-san returned to being quiet. He apparently needs some time to get used to us.

““Back~?”“

Finding the difference in Carl-san's attitude out of place, this time, it was Allen and Elena who made puzzled expressions.

“...Eh? Ah... I'm sorry... showed you something embarrassing”

Understanding the children's words, Carl-san's face dyed red as he hung his head.

“Err... you really had a ‘head chef’ feeling going on there”

“D, do you think so?”

“Yes”

“T, thank you very much”

When I said such, Carl-san's face turned red even more... is he embarrassed?

““Red~?”“

I decided to let go, but Allen and Elena pointed it out with a mercilessly swift attack.

...Carl-san was extremely bashfully turned his face away.



PtF by: traitorATZEN